Researching English Occupations – Defence Services

by Dr. Penelope Christensen

Most families have members who were in one of the defence services. Extensive and detailed records still exist for the army militia, royal marines, air force and navy, as well as for the East India Company.

Will your ancestors be remembered?

Here is practical advice on the contents of the records, how to access them from where you live, and how to use them.

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She has published many textbooks on methodology, Family History Centre resources and British and Scandinavian research. These are used as texts for the Internet courses offered by the University of Toronto in partnership with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies.

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PREFACE

Family history is more than just collecting names, dates and places. In their efforts to recreate the lives of their ancestors diligent researchers will endeavour to find details about home, schooling, work and community. They will search for pictures of people, places and events connected to the family to give visual impact to the history. The family historian can also discover much about the occupations of these ancestors. This book describes those termed *Defence Services*, whilst the companion *Researching English Occupations* volumes on *Civilian Services*, *Professions and Trades* deal with other methods of earning a livelihood. The extensive material on the occupations and on those individuals in them is waiting to be used in archives, libraries and Family History Centers.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has established the most important genealogical library system in the world to assist its members, and others, to identify their ancestors. Since the 1930s they have been microfilming national and local, civil and religious, records all over the world. The master copies of these films are protected from the elements and natural disasters in deep vaults carved out of the granite mountains near Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Family History Library™ in Salt Lake City houses the collection of films, fiches, papers and books and is open to the public. In addition, a network of over 3,600 branches, called Family History Centers (FHCs) operates world wide through the generosity of LDS

church members. The FHLC (Family History Library Catalogue) is now available for purchase on CD-ROM very inexpensively, as well as being provided gratis on the LDS website at www.familysearch.org.

Use of FHC facilities, which include dozens of indexes essential for research, is free. Patrons may borrow microforms (films or fiches) of most original documents and books held at Salt Lake City at their local FHC for a nominal fee, which covers postage and duplication. The reader is advised to consult *Research at the Family History Center*, in this series of Heritage Productions books, for details on how to utilize the indexes, computer facilities, and other procedures at the FHCs. All genealogists are most grateful to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) for extending the privilege of access to their collection to everyone.

Many of the records quoted in this book are available on either film or fiche. When a film is mentioned it means one available through a FHC. It is necessary to order these by means of their 7-digit LDS, or more properly GSU (Genealogical Society of Utah), number. Since there are now over two and a half million films available for loan, film numbers start with 0, 1 or 2. Many of the categories of records mentioned here are on long series of films or fiches, and the titles may be confusing. To assist the reader in finding the whole series on the FHLC I have indicated the starting film number of the series. By asking for a Film/Fiche (Number) Search and typing in this number the whole series will come on the screen.

Fiche numbers always start with a 6 and are followed in the present book by a number in parentheses indicating the number of fiches in that set, for example 6026374 (11.) Sometimes there is a series of fiche sets and the total number of fiches is then quoted, for example 6020392-411 (21.) When ordering fiches in to a Family History Center it is essential to know this quantity as you are charged per fiche. All fiches stay at the Family History Center that ordered them, they are not returned to Salt Lake City.

Kindly note that an asterix* after the microform number indicates *No circulation to Family History Centres* but that doesn't preclude getting photocopies of selected pages by using the *Request for Photocopies Form* #31768. This is indispensable method for obtaining inexpensive copies of documents and can be obtained free from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and can be downloaded from the LDS website at www.familysearch.org. Details and examples of how to order and use microforms, and details and examples of using the Request for Photocopies form are given in the author's companion publications *Let's Get Organized* and *Research at the Family History Center*. Information is also given on how to get pertinent information from huge sets of fiches that are beyond the researcher's budget.

University libraries and larger public libraries, especially those with a good genealogy section, hold many items of interest for the family historian with ancestors in the services, and military and naval college libraries should not be ignored.

The researcher should consult Gibson & Hampson for the availability of many kinds of indexes relevant to the services described herein. A number of facsimile reproductions of books on services and lists of officers are available in hard copy, CD-ROM and on fiche. A comprehensive listing of those on fiche and as books is given by Raymond's two 1999 volumes and prices compare very favourably with the secondhand value of these limited edition original volumes. Raymond's *Occupational Sources for Genealogists: A Bibliography* should be consulted for further sources.

The author wishes to thank David Greene, Donna Fraser, James P. Jones, Malcolm Mac Crimmon, and Connie Robertson for allowing use of examples from their families which the author has found in the course of her professional duties, and to Fay Hicks for useful discussions and examples from India.

INTRODUCTION

Many of the basic sources for family history such as civil registration, censuses, parish registers and wills will mention the occupations followed by your ancestors. This volume gives an introduction to the records available regarding the nature of the various defence services as well as to those containing particulars of the actual men and women engaged therein. The Defence Services covered include the Army, Marines, Militia, East India Company and Colonial Regiments, Air Force and Royal Navy.

There are obvious connections and overlaps between the defence services described here and certain civilian serves, as well as with other trades and professions. The materials in the companion volumes on *Civilian Services, Professions and Trades* should be considered in conjunction with the information given here.

In particular the student should note that the apprenticeship programme, as well as guilds and trade companies also operated within many of the services. Similarly office holders, whether in professional capacities or in services such as the East India Company or Customs & Excise, were required to take the test of allegiance to the crown and proof of attending sacrament in the Church of England required by the Test Act of 1672. This was designed to exclude from public office all Roman Catholics (until 1828) and Jews (until 1860) (Camp 1999-1).

There are no clear defining boundaries between services, professions and trades. Many people switched from one service to another in search of work, particularly between those that required similar training and experience. This is important to remember when the trail goes cold in one line of work-could he have found a job in a similar service?

Researchers are cautioned that it was not at all unusual for men to boost their rank or official status to prospective brides and in-laws, newspaper reporters or to anyone else they wished to impress. Thus a family story of a major in the Charge of the Light Brigade grew out of a sergeant major in the Crimean War; whilst a ship's mate preferred to call himself a captain when regaling his grandchildren with his exploits. The diligent researcher will search out the true facts.

DEFENCE SERVICES

The defence of the country was carried out by the **Military**, that is the regular, permanent armed forces (army, navy, air force, royal marines, etc.) and this included duties abroad. There was also a temporary force called the **Militia**, called upon especially in times of national emergency when the regular army was needed abroad. This militia existed from Saxon times when any able-bodied man between 16 and 60 could be called upon for military service within his county, occasionally elsewhere in Britain, but not abroad. Chart 1 outlines the main components of the defensive system, although this is very simplistic and of-course changed over the course of history.

Chart 1: The Defence of the Country

Military (Regular trained forces)	
Army	**Cavalry (Mounted)**
	Horse Guards Life Guards Dragoons Hussars Lancers
	Infantry (Foot)
	Grenadier Guards Coldstream Guards Scots Guards - Foot Regiments Fusiliers - Rifle Corps County Regiments Royal Artillery - Royal Engineers Royal Marines (soldiers on ships)

Navy From 1763-1864 Three squadrons of 3-7 ships-of -the-line and supporting ships ⌑ Centre Squadron under Admiral of the Red ⌑ Van Squadron under Admiral of the White ⌑ Rear Squadron under Admiral of the Blue	
Air Force	
Bomber Command	Fighter Command
Coastal Command	Training Command
Maintenance Command	Balloon Command
Reserve Command	RAF Mediterranean
RAF Far East	RAF Middle East
RAF Iraq	Air Forces in India
RAF Aden	RAF Palestine & Trans Jordan
Militia (Raised in time of need)	
On Land	
Volunteers	1794-1813
Rifle Volunteers	1859-1908
Yeomanry (cavalry)	1804-1921
Territorial Force/Army	1907-present
Home Guard	1940-1945
Fencible Corps	1794-1858
At Sea	
Sea Fencibles	1798-1813
Royal Naval Coast Volunteers	1852-1870
Royal Naval Reserve	1859
Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers	1874-1891
Royal Fleet Reserve	1901-1958
Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve	1902
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	1903-1958

Royal Naval Reserve Trawler Section	1911
Royal Fleet Volunteer Reserve Pigeon Service	1914-1918
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Anti-Aircraft Corps	1914-1918
Shetland Royal Naval Reserve	1914-1921
Clyde River Patrol	1939-1945
In The Air	
RAF Volunteer Reserve	1939-1945

General Military Records

There are a few records which span many military services, one of the most important for the family historian would be the index of Military Courts 1879-1994 which was reviewed by Probert, and covers:

Royal Navy	1911-1965
Royal Air Force	1941-1994
British Army	1879-1986
and Soldiers Executed	1914-1920

There is much of value in the new leaflets obtainable on the Public Record Office website, and the list at the time of writing is given under Further Reading; new ones are added frequently. Those concerned with operations rather than personnel are M8, M11, M21, M23, M24, M25, M28, M32, M33, M35, M36, M41, M54, M66, M68, M69, and M70. Another fascinating lucky dip is *Military & Mariner Miscellanea* by Ross & Ross 1991 on 129 fiches 6085342.

ARMY ORGANIZATION

This chapter can only hope to skim the surface of the organization, history and records but will point the student to the references needed and the type and location of records. Colonel Swinnerton (1998-1) has provided a readable introduction to the history and organization of the army useful to anyone unfamiliar with its traditions and jargon, and Oldham (1995) has an excellent overview.

There can hardly be a family in Britain that has had no member serving in the British Army, thus it is always wise to check your male ancestor's name against a list of wars being fought during his lifetime. It was an especially important source of work for impoverished Irish, (after 1801), and Scots, (after 1707), and an army record for an ancestor, or his brother, can uncover a wealth of information not findable elsewhere.

A vast number of Irishmen enlisted in the British Army; it was said that they had two choices, to either stay in Ireland and starve to death, or join the British Army and go to hell! The vast records have only recently been made accessible by valuable new finding aids, including several databases now available electronically. The amount of detail available for the lives of soldiers is the most extensive of any profession or trade.

The organization of the army has varied greatly over time and what follows is a brief summary of mainly the 19th century situation. The reader is referred to Fowler & Spencer, and to Swinnerton (2001-2) for further details. Some important points of terminology should

be clarified: the *establishment* was the number of soldiers allowed per unit in war or peacetime, whilst the *strength* was the number actually present. Putting someone or some unit on the strength simply means adding them to the muster rolls, the official list of those paid and fed. A very limited number of women, (and their children), were put on the strength to serve in domestic duties for the regiment. There were typically far more women termed *camp followers*, and an interesting article by Oldham (2001) describes their role and conditions. No women officially served in the British Army until they were recruited as nurses during the Crimean War

During wartime a much broader structure was used with several major armies designated, each being subdivided into *corps*, *divisions* and *brigades*, the latter being composed of several *regiments*. The strength of the British army began at 4000 in 1661 and reached its zenith of many millions in WWI. John Spencer has summarized figures involved in some major conflicts.

Never discard a potential soldier as too young or too old. There are records of boys who enlisted as young as 8, (but age 4 in militia on Chart 31), and men who were discharged aged 75 (Dixon). Families put on the strength may include infants who received an allowance.

Army Regiments

Each Regiment had an official name, often a number, and usually one or more nicknames, for example the *Nottinghamshire Regiment* was the 45th Regiment of Foot, and known as *Sherwood Foresters*, and nicknamed The *Old Stubborn*. In indexes they are often identified only by initials, thus *DCLI* is the *Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry* (32nd Foot). Chart 2, which gives the situation in 1881, will provide clues to these initials, and lists the regiments in their order of precedence, which is how the records are listed in catalogues. Most of these titles survived until after WWII.

Chart 2: Regiments of the British Army as of 1881 in Order of Precedence with Dates Raised

From Swinnerton & Kitzmiller

Brigade of Guards	
1st Foot Guards now The Grenadier Guards	1656
2nd Foot Guards now The Coldstream Guards	1650
3rd Foot Guards now The Scots Guards	1660
The Irish Guards	1901
The Welsh Guards	1915

The Household Cavalry	
1st Life Guards	1660
2nd Life Guards	1660
Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)	1645

The Royal Regiment of Artillery	
The Royal Garrison Artillery	1716 (although active intermittently from mid 1300s)
The Royal Field Artillery	1716
The Royal Horse Artillery	1793

The Cavalry		
1st	(Kings) Dragoon Guards	1685
2nd	Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)	1727
3rd	(Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards	1746
4th	(Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards	1697
5th	(Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Dragoon Guards	1788
6th	Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers)	1685
7th	(Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards	1688
1st	(Royal) Dragoons	1661
2nd	Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys)	1681
3rd	(King's Own) Hussars	1685
4th	(Queen's Own) Hussars	1685
5th	(Royal Irish) Lancers	1689
6th	(Inniskilling) Dragoons	1689
7th	(Queen's Own) Hussars	1689
8th	(King's Royal Irish) Hussars	1693
9th	(Queen's Royal) Lancers	1697
10th	(Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars	1697
11th	(Prince Albert's Own) Hussars	1697
12th	(Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers	1697
13th	Hussars	1697
14th	(King's) Hussars	1697
15th	(The King's) Hussars	1759
16th	(The Queen's) Lancers	1759
17th	(Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers	1759
18th	(Queen Mary's Own) Hussars	1759

19th	(Queen Alexandra's Own Royal) Hussars	1759
20th	Hussars	1759
21st	(Empress of India's) Lancers	1858
The Corps of Royal Engineers		1717

Infantry of the Line *Former titles are in italics*		
1st	The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment)	1633
2nd	The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)	1661
3rd	The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)	1665
4th	The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)	1680
5th	The Northumberland Fusiliers	1674
6th	The Royal Warwickshire Regiment	1673
7th	The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)	1685
8th	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1685
9th	The Norfolk Regiment	1685
10th	The Lincolnshire Regiment	1685
11th	The Devonshire Regiment	1685
12th	The Suffolk Regiment	1685
13th	Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry)	1685
14th	The Prince of Wales's Own (The West Yorkshire Regiment)	1685
15th	The East Yorkshire Regiment	1685
16th	The Bedfordshire Regiment	1688
17th	The Leicestershire Regiment	1688
18th	The Royal Irish Regiment	1684
19th	Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) [Kitzmiller calls this the Prince of Wales Yorkshire Regiment]	1688

20th	The Lancashire Fusiliers *(East Devonshire Regiment)*	1688
21st	The Royal Scots Fusiliers *(Royal North British Regiment)*	1678
22nd	The Cheshire Regiment	1689
23rd	The Royal Welsh Fusiliers	1689
24th	The South Wales Borderers *(2nd Warwickshire Regiment)*	1689
25th	The King's Own Scottish Borderers	1689
26th	The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	1688
27th	The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	1689
28th	The Gloucestershire Regiment *(North Gloucestershire Regiment)*	1694
29th	The Worcestershire Regiment	1694
30th	The East Lancashire Regiment	1702
31st	The East Surrey Regt. *(Huntingdonshire Regt.)*	1702
32nd	The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	1702
33rd	The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt.)	1702
34th	The Border Regiment (Cumberland Regiment)	1702
35th	The Royal Sussex Regiment *(The Prince of Orange's Own)*	1701
36th	2nd Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment *(Herefordshire Regiment)*	1701
37th	The Hampshire Regt. *(North Hampshire Regt.)*	1702
38th	The South Staffordshire Regiment *(1st Staffordshire Regiment)*	1702
39th	The Dorsetshire Regiment	1702
40th	The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment *(2nd Somersetshire Regt.)*	1717
41st	The Welch Regiment	1719
42nd	The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)	1739

43rd	The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Monmouthshire Light Infantry)	1741
44th	The Essex Regiment *(East Essex Regiment)*	1741
45th	The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment) *Nottinghamshire Sherwood Foresters Regiment.*	1741
46th	2nd Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry *(South Devonshire Regiment)*	1741
47th	The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment *(Lancashire Regiment)*	1741
48th	The Northamptonshire Regiment	1741
49th	Princess Charlotte of Wales's *(Royal Berkshire Regiment) (Hertfordshire Regiment)*	1743
50th	The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regt.)	1755
51st	The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry)	1755
52nd	2nd Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry *(Oxfordshire Light Infantry)*	1755
53rd	The King's Shropshire Light Infantry *(Shropshire Regiment)*	1755
54th	2nd Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment *(West Norfolk Regiment)*	1755
55th	2nd Battalion The Border Regiment *(Westmorland Regiment)*	1755
56th	2nd Battalion The Essex Regiment *(The West Essex Regiment)*	1755
57th	The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)*(West Middlesex Regiment)*	1755

58th	2nd Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment *(Rutlandshire Regiment)*	1755
59th	2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment	1755
60th	The King's Royal Rifle Corps *(Royal American Regiment)*	1755
61st	2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment *(South Gloucestershire Regiment)*	1758
62nd	The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment)	1758
63rd	The Manchester Regiment *(West Suffolk Regt.)*	1758
64th	The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment)	1758
65th	The York and Lancaster Regiment *(2nd Yorkshire (North Riding) Regiment)*	1758
66th	2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment *(Berkshire Regiment)*	1758
67th	2nd Battalion The Hampshire Regiment *(South Hampshire Regiment)*	1758
68th	The Durham Light Infantry *(2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers)*	1758
69th	2nd Battalion The Welch Regiment *(South Lincolnshire Regiment)*	1758
70th	2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment *(Surrey Regiment)*	1758
71st	The Highland Light Infantry	1777
72nd	The Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs)	1777
73rd	2nd Battalion The Black Watch	1780
74th	2nd Battalion The Highland Light Infantry	1787
75th	The Gordon Highlanders *(Stirlingshire Regiment)*	1787
76th	2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regt.	1787

77th	2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment *(East Middlesex Regiment)*	1787
78th	2nd Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders *(Ross-shire Buffs)*	1793
79th	The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders	1793
80th	2nd Battalion The South Staffordshire Regiment *(Staffordshire Volunteers)*	1793
81st	2nd Battalion The North Lancashire Regiment *(Loyal Lincolnshire Volunteers)*	1793
83rd	2nd Battalion The South Lancashire Regiment *(Prince of Wales's Volunteers)*	1793
83rd	The Royal Irish Rifles *(County of Dublin Regt.)*	1793
84th	2nd Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment	1793
85th	2nd Battalion The Shropshire Light Infantry *(Buckinghamshire Volunteers)*	1793
86th	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rifles *(Royal County Down Regiment)*	1793
87th	Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers	1793
89th	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers *(Princess Victoria's)*	1793
90th	2nd Battalion The Cameronians *(Perthshire Volunteers Light Infantry)*	1794
91st	Princess Louise's (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders) *(Argyllshire Regiment)*	1794
93rd	2nd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders	1794
93rd	2nd Battalion The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders *(Perthshire Fencibles)*	1800
94th	2nd Battalion The Connaught Rangers	1793
95th	2nd Battalion Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment *(Derbyshire Regiment)*	1832
96th	2nd Battalion The Manchester Regiment	1824

97th	2nd Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment) *(Earl of Ulster's Regiment)*	1824
98th	2nd Battalion The North Staffordshire Regiment	1824
99th	2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment *(Duke of Edinburgh's Lancashire Regiment)*	1824
100th	The Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment *(Royal Canadians)*	1858
101st	The Royal Munster Fusiliers *(Royal Bengal Fusiliers)*	1652
102nd	The Royal Dublin Fusiliers *(Royal Madras Fusiliers)*	1748
103rd	2nd Battalion The Royal Dublin Fusiliers *(Royal Bombay Fusiliers)*	1661
104th	2nd Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers *(Bengal Fusiliers)*	1652
105th	2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Light Infantry *(Madras Light Infantry)*	1839
106th	2nd Battalion The Durham Light Infantry *(Bombay Light Infantry)*	1839
* Not listed by Swinnerton		
107th	Bengal Infantry *	1854
108th	Madras Infantry *	1760
109th	Bombay Infantry *	1761
—	The Rifle Brigade	1800
—	1st West India Regiment *	1795
—	2nd West India Regiment *	1795
—	3rd West India Regiment *	1843
—	4th West India Regiment *	1862

The Corps	
The Army Chaplain's Department	1858
The Army Service Corps	1794
The Royal Army Medical Corps	1873
The Army Ordnance Department	-1455
The Corps of Military Police	1880
The Army Pay Department	1878
The Army Veterinary Corps	1796

The **Royal Marines** (raised as part of the army, but transferred to the Royal Navy)	1644

Over time it is a lot more complicated than this because of amalgamations and renaming, producing a constant state of flux. It is obvious, for example, that the 13th Foot was did not start out being Prince Albert's as he was not alive in 1697. These changes hinder finding the correct regiment and its records, but Kitzmiller has provided reference lists to the names, numbers and amalgamations. His indispensable lists also show from whence most were recruited. Swinnerton (2000-2, 2001-4, 2002-2) has provided an informative series of articles on regiments, see Further Reading for details.

For the record, *invalids* in army parlance may refer to medical fitness, but also has an entirely different meaning referring to their being *not valid*. They were soldiers, companies or regiments held surplus to the establishment.

How to Determine the Regiment

A search for army records is fairly simple if the following facts are known:

- **Full name**
- **Regiment—especially important**
- **Rank**
- **Number**
- **Dates of Service**

These can be found in:

• Family Memorabilia such as letters, diaries and the memoirs or reminiscences of older family members.

• Any official document from the army such as his discharge documents.

• Pension records for the area where he was living after discharge. In addition, the War Pensions Agency (address in Appendix) can often provide an army number and dates of service. These can then be used to approach the Ministry of Defence for more details.

• Uniforms, identity tags, pay books, shoulder titles, badges and buttons, or photographs of the soldier wearing them (Barnes 2002-1.) Soldiers typically had their photographs taken in full uniform at the beginning of their active service. Your public library has reference books, for example those by Capewell, Chichester & Burges-Short, R. Perkins, Swinnerton (2001-2), Arthur Taylor, Wilkinson, and Wilkinson-Latham. Museums

such as the Imperial War Museum (see Ann Carter, Paterson 1998, 2002-1, and the article by the Department of Printed Books 2001), the National Army Museum (see Humphreys, and Wise & Wise), and private experts such as the Victorian Military Society can also help identify items. Current addresses for museums can be found in Blatchford.

• Medals are typically engraved with the soldier's regiment around the rim except for those issued in WWII. The next-of-kin of those 1,355,000, (including 600 women), who died in WWI received a round bronze memorial plaque about 5" in diameter inscribed with the name of the deceased. These were known colloquially as the Dead Man's Penny and they came together with a printed letter from King George V and a scroll containing the service details, illustrated in Mackay.

• Knowledge of service in a certain battle or in a particular place in a specific year. Consult Kitzmiller for a listing of which regiments were in that place at that time. Other clues are marriage to a foreign-born wife, or souvenirs from India or South Africa, for example. If a man is known to have served in a particular campaign then consult the Medal Rolls in WO 100 that will give brief details of your man and his regiment.

• Civil registration certificates, for example his marriage or death, or the birth of a child, especially one born during the active service period such as wartime. These can give his rank, number and regiment, or at

least an address from which you can find out which regiment was stationed there at the time (Kitzmiller).

- Church Records of his marriage, death or the birth of a child. Parish magazines are also useful.

- Census records may cite his regiment, or may give a list of children born in different places from which the regiment may be deduced from Kitzmiller's lists. The latter also gives lists of military establishments in the 1841-1881 censuses by parish and by establishment, as well as lists of the locations of all garrisons, barracks etc.

- Probate records.

- Obituaries.

- Check with the regiment or regimental museum of the county where your ancestor lived; for addresses see the list in Blatchford.

- Check the recruitment areas for different regiments in Kitzmiller for those which recruited near his home at the time he joined up.

- For those who died during conflict there are rolls of honour and war memorials.

- Individual gravestone inscriptions.

- Newspaper accounts of departure and return of local soldiers.

- Old Comrades Associations such as the British Legion in his hometown may have extensive records of their local men and women. Addresses for these, and for the Western Front Association, and the Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth can be found on their web sites (see Appendix.)

- Tall men would favour the prestigious Guards regiments, who had minimum height requirements, or the elite grenadier companies, whilst smaller ones might be found in a Light Infantry regiment.

- Families tended to be loyal to a particular regiment, thus a father or uncle is likely to have been in the same regiment although it may have had a different name at his time.

- If your relative worked as a commissionaire at a hotel, theatre etc. in later life he may well have been a retired army man, as this was a particular avenue open to those men. The records of the Corps of Commissionaires (address in Appendix) could be helpful in providing the name of his former regiment.

- There is now a union nominal index of ordinary soldiers compiled from the WO 97 discharges to pension in the earliest period (1760-1854) at the PRO and on their catalogue http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk. This gives names, (with any aliases), place and county of birth, regiment, age on discharge, and covering dates. For WO 97 discharges this refers to the years of enlistment and discharge, and for WO 121 documents it gives the year of discharge. Many

soldiers served in more than one regiment and all militia and army regiments appearing in the original document are listed, usually, (but not always), in the order in which they appear in that document, (personal communication, Jenny Bunn, Manager, Friends of the PRO). To use the index click on Search the Catalogue, type in the surname, (and first name if you wish), in box 1, and then WO 97 in box 3. For common names you can type in box 1 William Smith AND Leeds, if that is where he was born, or Smith AND 22nd Foot in order to refine your search. The results will also bring up places with the same name, and you can also re-sort the results in date-of-enlistment order.

- Consult Beckett's Soldiers Index 1792-1838 compiled from non-PRO sources such as census returns for barracks, parish registers, and regimental journals and histories; see address in Appendix or two films starting at 1569009.

- Starting about 1829 each man had an army number, but the system of allotting these has changed over time. During most of the period to 1920 each battalion of each regiment could have men with the same numbers, thus it is essential to know the regiment, and often the battalion as well. From 1920 there was one numbering system for the whole army thus it is possible to find a person's regiment and records if you only have the number. The original 1829 Order stated that each man was to communicate his army status as in the (now classic) example: Thomas Atkins, 5th Foot, No. 55. Hence the terms

British Tommy and Tommy Atkins for a British soldier (Holding).

- For World War I soldiers consult the Absent Voters Registers for their hometown (Connell), usually now housed in the county archives These list each man's number in the register, full name, residence (as Qualifying Premises), and description of service, ship, regiment, number, rank, rating etc. or recorded address. By no means all soldiers served in their home county regiment and this is a simple method of finding in which one they did serve.

Infantry Organization

Each *regiment of foot*, or *line*, was commanded by a *colonel* and comprised one or more *battalions*; if there was only one then the term battalion was used interchangeably with regiment. In wartime some regiments have had as many as 30 battalions. A regiment consisted of 600-1000 men and was divided into companies one of which would be the depot company that acted as the headquarters and was responsible for recruitment and training, as well as for quelling civil disturbances. Despite the geographical name of the regiment this depot could be located anywhere in the UK (Great Britain and Ireland) and typically moved frequently. If the regiment was serving abroad the recruit would join the depot company and then wait until there was a sufficient number of recruits to form a draft that was then sent out to join the regiment (Grant).

The remainder of the battalion was the service arm commanded by a *lieutenant-colonel* and comprised 10-11 *companies*. Each company had 60, 100 or 120 men and was commanded by a *captain* and two subalterns, (a *lieutenant* and an *ensign*, later called a 2nd lieutenant). Some companies specialized, for example there was often a grenadier company, consisting of the tallest men in the regiment, armed with throwing grenades. Companies were divided into smaller groups called *platoons* comprising ordinary soldiers called *privates*.

Cavalry Organization

The colonel of a *cavalry regiment* commanded *squadrons*, which were further divided into six to eight sections or troops consisting of a *captain*, lieutenant and *cornet* (later called 2nd lieutenant) and about 60 men called troopers. The cavalry was originally divided into *horse* and *dragoons*. *Guards* or (Royal) *Household Troops* were both horse and foot. Since 1936 the cavalry regiments have all been mechanized.

Royal Artillery Organization

The divisions of an artillery regiment (R.A.) were called *batteries* and these were divided into *sections* comprising ordinary soldiers, the *gunners*. In the R.A. officer promotion was always by seniority, not by purchase.

Royal Engineers Organization

The Royal Engineers (R.E.) comprised *engineer officers* and men, called sappers and miners. In the R.E. officer promotion was always by seniority, not by purchase. Until 1722 the Royal Engineers was an officer's unit only, which hired civilians such as smiths, carpenters, wood cutters, *sappers* and *miners*, under the generic term *artificers*, to work under their supervision as needed. In 1787 the *Royal Corps of Military Artificers*, all of 'other ranks', was raised to do the labouring work. This later became the *Royal Corps of Sappers and Miners* with officers and other ranks and was amalgamated with the Royal Engineers in 1856.

Army Ranks

It is important to understand the ranking system in order to find the records. The primary need is to distinguish between officers and other *ranks*; Chart 3 provides a schematic breakdown.

Chart 3: Main Army Ranks (simplified)

Commissioned Officers	
Field Officers	
Army	Field Marshal
	General
	Lieutenant General
	Major General
	Brigadier
Regiment	Colonel
	Lieut-Colonel
	Major

Not Field Officers	
Company	Captain
	Lieutenant
	2nd Lieutenant (Sub-lieutenant), or Ensign (Infantry) or Cornet (Cavalry)
Additional	Surgeon
	Assistant-Surgeon
	Paymaster
	Chaplains
	Adjutant
Other Ranks Non-commissioned Officers (NCO)	
Warrant Officer 1st Class (includes the RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major), who is the senior NCO)	
Warrant Officer 2nd Class	
Sergeant Major (Corporal Major in Household Cavalry)	
Staff Sergeant	
Sergeant	
Corporal (Bombardier in Artillery)	
Lance Corporal	
Ordinary Soldiers	
Private (Infantry)	
Trooper (Cavalry)	
Gunner (Royal Artillery = R.A.)	
Sapper (Royal Engineers = R.E.)	
Rifleman (Rifle & Light Infantry)	
Guardsman (Foot Guards)	
Drummer, Fifer, Cook, Driver, Signalman, Craftsman etc.	

Prior to 1871 an ordinary soldier signed on for a minimum of 21 years, but after this time shorter service periods were introduced. A private could be promoted on merit to the rank of non-commissioned officer, and this was especially prevalent during wartime.

Officers entered by buying a royal warrant of appointment to a specific rank, called a *commission*, and advanced upwards by buying more senior commissions as vacancies occurred. Set rates were established, but often exceeded, and frequently involved several thousands of pounds.

Officers were also expected to support extravagant lifestyles and this meant that the main qualification for an officer was wealth rather than competence. The system was reformed in 1870-71, after the debacle of the Crimean War. It should also be noted that an officer sometimes had two rankings, one being his army rank (the highest that he *could* hold), the other his regimental rank (the particular rank he actually held).

ARMY HISTORY

Before the Civil War (1642-49) there was no regular standing army in England. Regiments were raised by members of the nobility upon authority from the monarch to meet a particular requirement and were known by the name of the colonel who formed them. Due to the lack of a central military organization in early times no systematic records exist but there are many records which refer to individuals, especially officers.

The formal organization of the army started at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660. The records from 1660 to the 1750s are relatively sparse and do not really contain much biographical information of use to the researcher. Some of the best sources for this period are regimental histories, see Hook (2001-1) and Arthur White, and these can be borrowed on Interlibrary Loan, and many are on film or fiche.

Major references for the history and records of the Civil War and Restoration periods are Asquith, Dalton 1960, Fowler & Spencer, Gibson & Dell, Kitzmiller, Newman, Peacock, Rogers, and Young. Chart 4 presents a brief synopsis of important events in British military history that may affect the family historian.

Chart 4: Brief Historical Synopsis of Important Military & Maritime Dates since 1640

Information from Kitzmiller, Swinnerton, Abranson and Fowler & Spencer

1640-1697	Anglo-Dutch War, Irish War, Peace of Ryswick.
1642-1649	English Civil War.
1845	Formation of New Model Army.
1660 25 May	Restoration of Monarchy (Charles II).
1661	Britain's oldest regiment, the Coldstream Guards, formed.
1664	Royal Marines established.
1684	First pensioners admitted to Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Ireland.
1688	Glorious Revolution (James II deposed, William & Mary enthroned).
1692	First pensioners admitted to Royal Hospital Chelsea.
1697-1713	War of Spanish Succession, Queen Anne's War.
1708	Pensions provided to officers' widows.
1713-1748	War of Austrian Succession, King George's War, and Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle 1748.
1715	1st Jacobite Rebellion.
1716	Royal Artillery founded.
1717	Corps of Engineers founded.
1740	First Army List published.
1740-1748	War of Austrian Succession.
1741	Royal Military Academy, Woolwich founded to train engineers and artillery.
1745	2nd Jacobite Rebellion.

1748-1763	Seven Years War, (called the French and Indian War in North America), ending with Peace of Paris 1763.
1757	Militia Act revives the local militias.
1757	Engineers given military rank.
1760	Soldiers' pension documents started.
1760	China restricts all foreign trade to the port of Canton.
1767	HEIC starts selling opium to China to pay for tea.
1768-1772	James Cook's first circumnavigation of globe on HMS Endeavour.
1772-1775	James Cook's second voyage.
1773	Boston Tea Party.
1775-1783	American Revolution (War of Independence) ending with Treaty of Paris/Versailles.
1776-1780	James Cook's third voyage.
1783-1815	Napoleonic Wars (French Revolutionary Wars) see Chambers for details.
1785	First regular transatlantic passenger line, from Lorient, France to New York.
1787	First convicts transported to Australia.
1787	Corps of Engineers became the Royal Engineers.
1789	Start of French revolution.
1789	Mutiny on HMS Bounty in the South Pacific.
1791	Ordnance Survey instituted for mapping of Great Britain by military engineers.
1793	Louis XVI of France guillotined.
1793	First free colonists in Australia.
1795	Royal Navy introduces compulsory daily issue of lime juice to prevent scurvy.

1796	Army Chaplains Department established.
1797	British navy mutinies at Spithead and the Nore.
1801	Battle of Copenhagen in which Nelson defeats Danish Navy.
1805	Battle of Trafalgar in which Nelson is killed but defeats Napoleon.
1808-1814	(Iberian) Peninsula Campaign.
1810	Army Medical Department established.
1811	Royal Corps of Sappers & Miners established.
1812-1815	2nd Anglo-American War (War of 1812).
1813-1822	HEIC loses its trading monopolies with India.
1815 18 Jun	Battle of Waterloo in which Wellington defeats Napoleon.
1815-1854	Wars of Independence, Worldwide.
1822	Institution of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.
1827	Last navy action under sail in which combined British, French & Russian fleet annihilates Turkish fleet in Navarino Bay in support of Greek independence.
1832	Launch of first fighting steamship, the French paddle frigate *Gomer*.
1837	Accession of Queen Victoria.
1837-1838	Canadian Rebellion.
1838	First crossing of Atlantic under steam by English paddle-steamers *Sirius* and *Great Western*.
1839-1842	First Opium War between Britain & China.
1839-1915	Hart's Army List published.

1840	First British emigrants arrive in New Zealand.
1843	Launch of first big steel and screw ship, the *Great Britain*.
1844	Launch of American China packet *Rainbow*, considered the first true clipper.
1849	Repeal of the English Navigation Acts.
1850	First powered ship-of-the-line, the French *Napoleon*.
1851	First Australian gold rush.
1853	Continuous Service Act for Royal Navy enlistment for 10-year period.
1854	Institution of Distinguished Conduct Medal.
1854-1856	Crimean War.
1854 25 Oct	Charge of the Light Brigade.
1855	Ordnance Board abolished.
1856	Victoria Cross instituted.
1856	International treaty puts an end to privateering.
1857	Army Hospital Corps formed
1857	Indian Mutiny. Many of troops discharged after Crimean War were recalled to quell the riot in India.
1857	Introduction of uniforms for Royal Navy Ratings.
1857-1858	Second Opium War between Britain & China.
1859	Volunteer Regiments formed.
1859	First ironclad, the French steam frigate *Gloire*.
1860, 1862-1864	Maori Wars in New Zealand.
1867	Second Class Army Reserve established.
1870	Red River Expedition, Canada.

1870-1871	Cardwell Reforms effected major re-organization of army, with abolition of purchase of officer commissions and promotion on ability instead, as well as changes to enlistment periods for ordinary soldiers, and much further modernization.
1871	Flogging abolished in Royal Navy, but only during peacetime.
1878-1879	Zulu War.
1878-1881	1st South African (Boer) War led to South African Independence in 1881.
1881	Abolition of numbered regiments of foot and their re-establishment as regiments with county affiliations.
1881	Army Nursing Service formed.
1882-1885	Egyptian and Sudan Campaigns.
1886	Institution of Distinguished Service Order.
1898	Sudan Campaign.
1898	Army Medical Department and Army Medical Staff Corps merged to form Royal Army Medical Corps.
1899-1902	2nd South African (Boer) War led to the unification of South Africa in 1910.
1900 28 Feb	Relief of Ladysmith, South Africa.
1900 17 May	Relief of Mafeking, South Africa.
1903	5 to 7 year service introduced in Royal Navy.
1914 14 Aug	Lord Kitchener's 'Call to Arms' for men aged 19-30.
1914 4 Aug 1918 11 Nov	1st World War. About 3 million English troops served in this war, 750,000 died.
1915-1916	Gallipoli Campaign, Turkey.
1916 27 Jan	Conscription introduced for men aged 18-41.

1916 1 Jul-8 Nov	Battle of the Somme.
1916 31 Jul-8 Nov	Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Battle of Ypres).
1916 24 Apr - 1 May	Easter Rising, Dublin.
1918	Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service merged to form Royal Air Force.
1922	Irish regiments disbanded upon independence of Irish Free State.
1922 17 Dec	Last British troops leave Southern Ireland.
1939 May	Conscription of men aged 20-21 introduced.
1939 Sep	Conscription extended to men aged 18-41.
1939 3 Sep-1945 2 Sep	2nd World War. Over 1 million British soldiers and civilians died in the war.
1940-1944	Home Guard (Local Defence Volunteers) active.
1940 27 May -4 Jun	Evacuation from Dunkirk.
1940 Jun-Sep	Battle of Britain (RAF).
1940 7 Sep-13 Nov	Battle for London (RAF).
1941 22 Apr - 29 May	Greek and Crete Campaigns.
1942 15 Feb	Surrender of Singapore.
1942 10 Jul	Start of Battle of El Alamein.
1943 10 Jul	Allies land in Sicily.
1944 6 Jun	Allies land in France (D-Day).
1945 8 May	Germany surrenders (VE Day).
1945 14 Aug	Japan surrenders (VJ Day).

1947	National Service Bill made every British male between 18 and 26 liable for 1-2 years of military service plus time afterwards in the reserves.
1947 15 Aug	Last British troops leave India.
1948 14 May	Last British troops leave Palestine.
1950-1953	Korean War.
1956	Suez Crisis.
1963	Last men finished compulsory service in the reserves.

ARMY RECORDS FOR FAMILY HISTORY

The official national archives for the British defence forces is the Public Record Office at Kew, London and major portions of the records are on microfilm available through your local Family History Center. The army cavalry, infantry and marines were under the Commander in Chief, but the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers came under the Master General of the Ordnance thus their records were kept separately and are hence in different classes at the Public Record Office.

At the Public Record Office there are four main sources of army documents corresponding to their institutional authors:

- ***Colonial Office (lettercode CO)***= Correspondence and records from Great Britain to the colonies.
- ***Home Office (lettercode HO)***= Internal correspondence.
- ***State Papers (lettercode SP)***= Correspondence by Royal Officials. Useful for the period 1640-1700s.
- ***War Office (lettercode WO)***= This is the single most important source for military records..

Each class of records has a class number, for example the huge class of Soldiers Documents (or Discharge Papers) created by the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which came under the War Office is class number WO 97. A division of this, for example the records for the 13th Foot Regiment for surnames Abb-Car for the years of discharge 1760-1854 has the piece number WO 97/341. A class may contain more than one kind of record; and to make things more confusing, like records may be in different classes! Full details of this system and its traditional and computerized usage can be found in Bevan.

Much of the PRO records of most use to family historians is on microfilm through Family History Centers and can be found under FHLC - LOCALITY-GREAT BRITAIN (or ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES etc.) - MILITARY RECORDS and MILITARY RECORDS - ARMY. The list for GREAT BRITAIN is more extensive than that for ENGLAND, for example, but there are different items on each. A comparison of subcategories of MILITARY RECORDS and the numbers of items listed under Great Britain and England is presented in Chart 5. The researcher should investigate all listings, and likewise those for Scotland, Ireland, Wales and other countries as appropriate.

Chart 5: Comparison of FHLC Lists of Military Records for Great Britain & England (FHLC March 2001 edition on CD)

Military Records subsection	Number of items listed under	
	Great Britain	England
Main heading 'Military Records'	70	59
1760-1789 [sic actually to 1945]	155	—
19th century	2	—
Air Force	—	1
Air Force-Bibliography	—	1
Air Force-Indexes	1	—
Air Force-Inventories, registers, catalogs	—	1
Air Force-World War 1914-1918	2	—
Army	53	12
Army-18th century	1	—
Army-Handbooks, manuals, etc	—	1
Army-Indexes	8	—
Army-Inventories, registers, catalogs	6	—
Army-Korean War, 1950-1953	1	—
Army-Sources	2	—
Army-World War, 1914-1918	12	2
Bibliography	2	3
Civil War, 1642-1649	1	2
Coast Guard-Indexes	—	1
Directories	2	2
Handbooks, manuals, etc.	2	2
History	8	4
History-Bibliography	1	—

Indexes	29	7
Inventories, registers, catalogs	8	3
Law & Legislation	—	1
Militia-Handbooks, manuals, etc	—	1
Militia-Inventories, registers, Catalogs	2	—
Navy	24	6
Navy-18th century	1	—
Navy-19th century	2	—
Navy-Bibliography	1	—
Navy-History	—	1
Navy-Indexes	5	2
Navy-Inventories, registers, Catalogs	—	3
Norman period, 1066-1154	1	—
Pensions	7	2
Pensions-Indexes	1	1
Periodicals	1	1
Sources	—	2
Stuarts, 1603-1714-Inventories, registers, catalogs	1	—
Tudors, 1485-1603	1	—
World War, 1914-1918	2	—
World War, 1939-1945	1	—

There are also relevant items listed under BIOGRAPHY, CONCENTRATION CAMPS, HISTORY, HISTORY -ARMY, MILITARY HISTORY, OBITUARIES, OCCUPATIONS, and OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.

Since the regiments were only numbered in 1751 it is difficult, but not impossible, to trace both officers and men before this. As this volume is intended for those beginning their searches it will not give details of pre-18th century records. Only the main records will be discussed here; there are hundreds of others, many of which are microfilmed. Many sequences seem to be split into several entries on the FHLC thus persistence is needed. Many people find the fiche listings easier to browse through than the electronic versions. The fiche addendum of Kitzmiller's book is invaluable in providing comprehensive lists of film numbers by type of record for the most used ones. The FHL did prepare a list of all its British Army holdings in 1978 (film 0990313) but many books, indexes and films have been acquired since that date. The reader should become familiar with the PRO indexes at www.pro.gov.uk and use these in conjunction with the FHLC and the PRO *Records Information* leaflets. A list of relevant ones is provided in the Further Reading and they can be downloaded from the PRO website.

Individual *Regimental Museums* often hold information not available at the Public Record Office, particularly on officers. The three oldest regiments of Foot Guards - the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards - also possess some very good records (see addresses in Appendix.) Two regimental history bibliographies, by R. Perkins and Arthur White, have been issued on CD-ROM and this greatly simplifies finding the appropriate volume (Hook 2001-1).

The Victorian Military Society (address in Appendix) can often help with problems during the 19th century, particularly Boer War Graves, the latter also detailed by Wood (1998).

The history of the British Army from 1485 to date is displayed at the National Army Museum and although it does not contain records of individual soldiers it is a great source of information and illustrations (Humphreys). There is a huge amount of material covering 20th century conflicts in the Imperial War Museum in London (see article by their Department of Printed Books) and a new branch is now open in Manchester.

It is known that the DHSS (Dept of Health and Social Security) has 42 miles of records regarding former forces personnel, civilians injured in air raids, claimants for war pensions and much more. How much is accessible is not known, but a former manager has commented on them (see reference under Anonymous).

Army Lists and *Hart's Army Lists* are being reprinted on fiche by M.M. Publications, (address in Appendix, and brief details in Raymond 1999-1, also see PRO leaflet M17.) Examples of fascinating articles written about soldiers' include those by:

- Barnes (2002-2) on the Boer War.

- Bugden on searching for records and class WO 121.

- Bultitude on permanent marking of soldiers who were deserters or bad characters.
- Cleaver on a soldier not found in WO 97.
- Erik Gray on a soldier search carried out by one of the 'great' army researchers.
- Francmanis on a Hussar at Waterloo.
- Horne on the British Soldier, and the Chelsea Pensioner.
- Howcutt on the India Burmese Campaign, a court martial, and a hospital sergeant at the Royal Military Academy.
- Hurst (1995) reviews narratives about the Napoleonic Wars.
- Mortimer on searching for records starting with a War Memorial.
- Oxenham on a Victoria Cross won at Lucknow.
- Reid on an 18th century soldier.
- Sheila Gray on the Boer War.
- Swinnerton on recruitment (1999), and women soldiers (2000-3).
- Vallance on the Boer War.

Records of all Personnel

Civil Registration Overseas Indexes

In addition to the regular birth, marriage and death registrations kept by the Registrar General there is a series of *Overseas Indexes*, some dating back into the 18th century. The early ones are incomplete, and some registers are still held by individual regiments, not by the General Register Office. Note that many of the army returns are for events that took place *in Britain* for service personnel. An example of this can be found in my *Researching English & Welsh Civil Registration Records*, which book should be consulted for full details of where and how to use the overseas military civil registration records. Charts 6-11 indicate what indexes are available and what they contain.

Chart 6: Overseas Military Birth Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
[Army] Chaplains' Returns	1796-1880	6137330 (3)
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1965	6137331-47 (63)
Ionian Islands-Military-Chaplains	1818-1864	6137404 (3) 6137410 (2)
Regimental Births Supplement	1761-1924 1761-1924	6137402 (95) 6137403 (8)
Service Departments Registers [Army, Navy, Air Force]	1956-1965	—

An example of a listing of overseas military births:

Chart 7: Regimental Births 1761-1924

Year	Name	Place	Regt	Vol	Page
1837	DARTNELL, Caroline E.	Bellary [India]	41st	1333	15
1838	DARTNELL, John G.	Quebec [Canada]	—	148	139
1886	DARTNALL, Charles E.	Exeter [England]	R.A.	381	59
1896	DARTNALL, George H.	Sialkot [India]	R.A.	411	2

Chart 8: Overseas Military Marriage Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
[Army] Chaplains' Returns	1796-1880	6137413 (2)
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1955	6137414-28 (39)
Army Marriages within British Lines	1914-1925	6137487 (1)
Ionian Islands-Military-Chaplains	1818-1864	6137406 (1) 6137412 (1)
Regimental Marriages Indexes are at ONS but not for personal searching. *	1761-1924	—
Service Departments Registers [Army, Navy, Air Force]	1956-1965	6137429-30 (10)

*Apply to Overseas Section at Southport address.

An example of a listing of overseas military marriages:

Chart 9: Army Marriages 1881-1955

Year	Name	Place	Page
1883	Charles DARTNELL	Bangalore [India]	323
1889	Georgina Jane DARTNELL	Pietermaritzburg [South Africa]	225
1910	Henry S. DURTNALL	Jersey [Channel Islands]	5

Chart 10: Overseas Military Death Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
[Army] Chaplains Returns	1796-1880	6137109 (1)
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1956	6137110-26 (21)
Army War Deaths-Officers	1914-1921	6137181 (12)
Army War Deaths-Officers	1939-1948	6137184 (3)
Army War Deaths-Other Ranks	1914-1921	6137180 (110)
Army War Deaths-Other Ranks	1939-1948	6137183 (29)
Indian Services War Deaths	1914-1921	—
Indian Services War Deaths	1939-1948	6137188 (2)
Ionian Islands-Military-Chaplains	1818-1864	6137405 (1) 6137411 (1)
Natal & South Africa Forces War Deaths [Boer War]	1899-1902	6137329 (7)
Naval War Deaths	1914-1921	6137182 (12)
Naval War Deaths-Officers	1939-1948	6137186 (7)
Naval War Deaths-Ratings	1939-1948	6137185 (14)
RAF War Deaths-All Ranks	1939-1948	6137187 (10)

An example of a listing of overseas military deaths:

Chart 11: War Deaths other Ranks 1914-1921

Name	Rank *	#	Unit*	Year	Vol	Page
DARTNALL, Henry T.	A/Sgt	38630	RAMC	1918	H.6	184
DARTNELL, Charles S.	L/Cpl	31331	N.Hants	1918	I.64	297
DARTNELL, Frederick	Pte	S/228	RWSR	1916	I.67	4

*Rank- A/Sgt = Acting Sergeant
L/Cpl = Lance Corporal
Pte = Private
Unit-RAMC = Royal Army Medical Corps
N. Hants = North Hampshire Regiment
RWSR = Royal West Surrey Regiment

The List of Regiments, Corps & Departments from which records of marriages, births and baptisms and deaths have been extracted can be found on GSU microfiche 6137491 (2). PRO leaflets D61 and M13 are useful for deaths.

Station Returns (a.k.a. 'Monthly Returns') WO 17
This contains a list of which regiments were stationed where each month. If you know a man served at a certain place you can find which regiments were there then. This information is now summarized in *Forlorn Hope* (Kitzmiller). To narrow down further, if you also know his nationality/county of birth you can check which of these regiments recruited from that area in Part 5 of *Forlorn Hope*.

Medals & Awards

Gallantry and distinguished service were recognized, as was service in specific campaigns and battles, by a large variety of medals and awards starting about 1815 for the Battle of Waterloo. These are the subject of specialized books such as Joslin, Litherland & Simpkin and an article by Dymond. Also see PRO leaflets M77 and M78.

Medal rolls (lists of all those who took part in campaigns) pre-WWI are in class WO 100 and 102. Campaign medal rolls for WWI are in class WO 329, with an index in WO 372 but they give little personal information except rank and regimental number. Records of awards can be found in various WO classes and lists can be found in Fowler & Spencer (pre-WWI), and Fowler, Spencer & Tamblin (WWI). Also see PRO leaflet M 76. There were three principal awards for WWI, but only for those who served in a theatre of war:

- **1914 (or 1914-1915) Star**
- **British War Medal**
- **Victory Medal**

Those who served at home in WWI received decorative certificates such as the one described and illustrated by Harris. For WWII those who served at home bases as well as those fighting overseas received the Second World War Defence Medal. Awards for WWII are in class WO 373. For records of other campaign medal rolls since 1918 contact The Army Medal Office; next of kin can claim unissued medals from the same office.

Casualty Returns WO 25, 32, 108 & 334

These regimentally arranged army records include not only wounding but also other reasons for absence from a regiment, including desertion, discharge and authorized absences. Details of the officer or ordinary soldier, what the casualty was, and next of kin are noted, and occasionally there appears a will or list of possessions. Casualty returns are a good place to look if you know the regiment but cannot find a discharge document. They can be found in WO 25 (for example film 1483394 for New South Wales), WO 32, WO 108, and WO 334 including many indexes, and cover the period 1809 to 1910. There are also records of payments made to next of kin and these are arranged alphabetically so the name of the regiment is not needed.

War Dead WO 25 & WO 32

Special rolls of those who died in conflicts were kept by each regiment, and these can be found in WO 25 and WO 32 for all the major campaigns of the Victorian era (1837-1901). In addition civil registration recorded deaths of military personnel (see Charts 10 and 11) thus from 1837 these soldiers are relatively easy to trace by means of death certificates. See also PRO leaflet M13. It should be noted that from 1881 returns relating to Scottish and Irish persons in the army were returned to their own General Register Offices, not that for England & Wales as they were before this date.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the worldwide graves of men who died in action in British and Commonwealth forces (Francis 2001-1, 2002-1). They have a wonderful web site containing the *Debt of Honour Registers* at www.cwgc.org that records the war dead and missing from the two World Wars. They also initiated a *Civilian Roll of Honour* for non-military personnel killed during wartime, and this is kept at Westminster Abbey (Francis 2001-2, 2002-2.)

Soldiers Died in the Great War and *Officers Died in the Great War* produced as a series of books by the Imperial War Museum are now available on CD-ROM and list place of birth and enlistment, whether died in action or of wounds (if known), and where, date of death and any medals received for gallantry. The officers' list is less detailed and probably superceded by Jarvis & Jarvis.

The *National Roll of the Great War* is a less well known series of 14 volumes and gives more details, particularly the regiment and sometimes the battalion, not always given in Soldiers Died. Civilians, including many women, are also listed as *special war workers* whatever their occupations. The FHLC only has volume 11 for Manchester on film 0924147 item 1, but the Society of Genealogists has eight of the 14 volumes, some of which have more than one part. A descriptive article was provided by Pigott.

The ***National Army Museum*** has 16 tons of records of monies owed by the Army to soldiers who died between 1901 and 1960.

It is called *Deceased Soldiers' Effects* and covers soldiers who died 1901-21 and officers 1901-1929, including names of those who received monies (Foster). The PRO holds an earlier series of Deceased Soldiers' Effects covering 1862-1881 in WO 25/3475-3501.

There are approximately 54,000 *War Memorials* on village greens, in grand town centres, local churches, businesses, schools and many other places. Local and family history societies can help you find them and their inscriptions. There is also a *UK National Inventory of War Memorials* (address in Appendix) which details the monuments and their locations but not the names thereon (Hewitt.)

Courts Martial WO 71, 86, 89, 90, 92 & 93
Officers could only be tried by general courts martial but ordinary soldiers could be tried in any of the three types:

- General regimental (pre-1829) in WO 89
- District (post 1829) in WO 86
- General in WO 93.

Only records of officers' trials 1688-1850 survive in WO 71, since those for 1850-1914 were destroyed by bombing during WWII. For those records less than 75 years old only summaries are open for view.

As an example there are three films 1483402-4 covering the years 1796-1900 for WO 86, 89, 90 (those confirmed abroad), and 92 (South Africa). See also PRO leaflets M22 and M75, as well as M16 for WWI conscientious objectors, and M27 for WWII war crimes.

War Diaries & Trench Maps WO 95

Official regimental war diaries, also known as *Intelligence Summaries*, were kept by battalions as well as by larger and more specialized units to record their daily activities. They often include trench maps, especially for WWI, and can be of intense interest to the family historian.

They have mostly survived, and may be found listed by battalion or unit mainly in WO 95, and also in appropriate county and local record offices. The Imperial War Museum Trench Map CD-ROM was reviewed by Hook (2001-2). See also PRO leaflet M11.

Prisoners of War

Very few records exist at the PRO for prisoners of war before WWI and these are only for the American Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. The London Gazette reported on some Boer War prisoners. For the First and Second World Wars the records are kept by the International Council of the Red Cross (Wynn-Jones) and are not open to the public for 100 years. A written request can be made in English for records older than 50 years and an hourly fee is payable for which they accept credit cards (see Appendix for addresses).

Fowler & Spencer have surveyed the existing records at the Public Record Office which include the following:

- WWI interviews of prisoners that returned home were kept by the Committee on the Treatment of British Prisoners of War, and they and the repatriation reports are in WO 161.

- World War II records include lists of all British and Dominions POWs held by the Germans and Italians from 1939 to 1945 in WO 392. An even more comprehensive list of prisoners of the Japanese can be accessed through a card index in WO 345.

Other fragmentary records do exist, for example film 1656909 contains information about Napoleonic War prisoners in France. Paterson (2002-2) has written a useful article on sources. Wood (2001-1) presents a good overview of the history of POWs, the influence of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions, and the

records that are available for British POWs. Paddy White gives information about education in POW camps, extracts from John Bell's WWI POW diary were published in Family Tree Magazine (Sharman), the story of a search for a WWI POW is recounted by M.A.Williams, and the PRO has three finding aids, M29 for 1698-1919 and M19 and M20 for 1939-1953. See also PRO leaflet M12.

Records of Women

There are very few records for women as they were not officially employed until the mid-19th century as nurses in the Crimea. Wives of soldiers are recorded in the soldiers' discharge documents WO 97 from the 1850s, and occasionally those retained on the strength appear in muster rolls in WO 12 and WO 16 under the Married Establishment. See also PRO leaflet M74.

Records of Officers

There are references to commissioned and warrant officers between 1661 and 1782 in class SP 44. Officers records, arranged by regiment, begin to be really useful in 1829 and go up to 1870. More of them have survived than have records for lower ranks. These records contain place of birth, details of service career, marriage and children with their dates of birth. Thereafter one has to rely on the Army Lists that are not so detailed. See PRO leaflets M4, M10, M17, M23, M24, and M73 for information on officers.

Army Lists 1702-1879 WO 65 & 1880-1900 WO 66
The Army Lists date from 1702, and were published officially from 1740, and printed annually from 1754. They are arranged by regiment, and from 1879 give names of officers in order of seniority, their dates of birth and promotions, with service details from 1881. It tells where each battalion of the regiment was stationed that year, and can also list names of officers on half pay. There are several overlapping series, some being annual, others half-yearly, quarterly or even monthly. Various indexes are available starting at 1766 and this is a good place to start when the officer's regiment is not known. There are films available from 1754 until 1915 under various headings on the FHLC, for example 0856427-452; Kitzmiller lists them all.

There is an alternative version with more details, *Hart's Army List*, which started in 1839 and was issued until 1915. It lists the date of purchase of commissions. The years 1862-70, and 1905-1908 are on 10 films starting at 0918036. *Whitaker's Naval & Military Directory and Indian Army List* is another good one available on film.

Separate lists of officers are available for:

- Royal Artillery 1716-1914
- Royal Engineers 1660-1898
- Army Medical Officers 1660-1960
- (see book by Wellcome Historical Medical Library)
- War Office staff 1861-1964

Transfer of Commissions

A paper trail was kept as officers were appointed, promoted, transferred or purchased commissions, the latter being the most personally informative. They are in a wide variety of classes described in Fowler & Spencer for example WO 31, the *Commander-in-Chief's Memoranda* which contains small packets of letters relating to each officer, see Chart 48.

Service Records: Regimental Records WO 76 & War Office Records WO 25

The Regimental records in WO 76, some of which are still in the hands of the individual regiments, and some of which do not survive, start around 1755 going to 1961. 1770-1919 are available through Family History Centers on 96 films beginning with 0917281. Details given vary with the regiment and the information may be supplemented by reading published regimental histories (Hook 2001-1, Arthur White). An example is given in Chart 34 that shows the amount of detail available.

The War Office records in WO 25 were compiled by the officers themselves in the years 1809-10, 1828-9, 1847, and 1870-72. A new system was introduced in 1870 and records survive until 1914. Records of officers discharged between 1914 and 1920 were lost during bombing in WWII. Further details should be sought in Fowler, Spencer & Tamblin.

Records of Payments to Officers PMG 3, 4
The Paymaster General Department's records for officers retired on full pay are in class PMG 3, and for those retired on half pay in PMG 4, and there are several miscellaneous others.

Pensions & Half Pay WO32 — WO 42
Until 1871 there were no retirement or disability pensions for officers; instead they were released from active service and put on half pay, as were many officers superfluous to current needs in peacetime in a kind of retainer capacity. Some officers might sell their commissions and live off the proceeds. The Army Lists record officers on half pay, (although they may not occur in the indexes), and there were also separate pay records for example those starting at film 0859544.

Wounded officers could receive pensions from 1812 to 1892. Widows of officers killed on active service could claim pensions from 1708, and a fund for needy widows was set up in 1818. The Compassionate Fund and the Royal Bounty were set up in 1720 to provide for other dependants in need. About 2000 application records containing much personal detail, including copies of birth, christening, marriage and death records, survive from 1755 to 1908 and are on film from 1776-1881; some examples follow in Charts 12-15.

Widow's & Children's Pension Applications
The collection starts at film 0853379 and an example of the contents is shown in Chart 12.

Chart 12: Pension Application by Officer's Widow
Page 1. Application Form

Form No. 2
Required for placing on the Pension List, the Widow of an Officer under the Rank of Major General

I, *Frances Chambers McCrimmon* do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I was lawfully married at *Corfu, Ionian Islands* on the *25th January* day of 1833 to *John McCrimmon* esq. late a *Brevet Major* in the 11th Regiment of *Foot* who died at *Chatham* on the *6th* day of *February 1830* aged *44 years*; that ever since his decease I have continued a Widow, and am so at this present time; and that I have no Pension, Allowance, or Provision from Government. And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Act 5 and 6 William IV., Cap. 62.

Frances C. McCrimmon
29 Great King Street, Edinburgh

Declared and Subscribed before me at *The Horse Guards* the *sixteenth* day of *March 1839.*

E, Marshall (Magistrate for Westminster)

We do hereby certify to the best of our knowledge and belief that *Frances Chambers McCrimmon* was the lawful wife of *John McCrimmon late a Bt* Major 11th Foot who died at Chatham 6 Feb 1839 of Inflammation of the Chest and we do humbly recommend her as a deserving object of His Majesty's Royal Bounty. Given under our Hands this *2nd* day of May 1839.

R.V. Donham Colonel
Cockle (agent)

Page 2. Certificate of Marriage accompanying Officer's Widow's Application

No. 55 in the Palace Register of Marriages
No. 186 in the Chaplain's Register of Marriages
Place and Date of Solemnization of Marriage
Corfu, Ionian Islands January 25th 1833
Names, Description & Signatures of the Parties Married:
Jno McCrimmon Capt 11th Regt
Frances Chambers Macdonald
Signatures of Witnesses
Jas W. Worsley
Geo O'Malley late 88th Regt
Thomas Moore M.D.
D. Johns [?] Capt 88th Regt
Signature of the Person Solemnizing the Marriage:
H.D. Leeves, Officiating Chaplain to the Forces

Chart 13: Application for Back Pay
Page 1. Application Form

Patrick McCrummen esq. maketh oath that he is the lawful son and nearest of kin of *Lieut. Donald W. McCrummen 4th Roy. V. Bttn* who died on the *31st July 1825* as the Deponent has reason to believe, and that the said *Patrick McCrummen* is accordingly the Person entitled to the Sum which remains due on account of the *Retired Full Pay* of the said *Lieut. Donald McCrummen.*

P. McCrummen late Capt 79th Regt. of St. Osyth, Essex

Sworn before me at Prin...this 9th day of *September 1825.*

J Martin Leake [?] Magistrate for Essex

We do hereby certify that we personally know the above subscribing *Patrick McCrummen* and believe what he has stated to be true. *Thos Fisher, John Wilson,* both Inhabitants and Householders of the Parish of St. Osyth in the County of Essex.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above-named *Patrick McCrummen* who claims the sum due on account of the *Retired Full Pay* of the *Late Donald McCrummen* above described, and I likewise certify that *Thomas Fisher* and *John Wilson* are Inhabitants and Householders of this Parish. I am also satisfied that the above Affidavit and Certificate are authentic, and entitled to full credit.

Jos. Terrill B.C.L. Minister of the Parish of St. *Osyth.*

PRECENDENCY OF RELATIVES

1st	Widow	6th	Grandfather or Grandmother
2nd	Child	7th	Uncle, Aunt, Nephew, or Niece
3rd	Father	8th	Cousin German
4th	Mother	9th	Ditto once removed
5th	Brother or Sister	10th	Second Cousin

The proportion in which the personal property of a person dying intestate, is to be divided among his Relatives, are regulated by the Statute of Distributions....

Page 2. Doctor's Certificate accompanying Back Pay Application

London 6th August 1825
I hereby certify that I attended Lieut. Donald McCrummen of the 4th R.V. Bttn during his late illness and that he died at Burton Street, London on the 31st of July last, in consequence of Disease of the Chest accompanied with Dropsy and General Debility.
William Balmain, Surgeon and Apothecary

Papers accompanying other applications include these:

Chart 14: Certificate of Death on Battlefield

"I certify that Lieutenant Edward Pillichody of H.M. Regiment de Waterils was killed at the sortie made by the Americans at Fort Erie in Upper Canada on the 17th September 1814.
Given under my hand and seal, R. May,
Lt Colonel late commanding [sic]off[icer]r of Wateril's [sic] Regt.
Berne February 8th 1828. L. de Watteville
M. General"

His Swiss christening entry was also included.

Chart 15: Medical Certificate

"Torres (?) 21 March 1842

I certify that I attended the late Captain Donald McBarrat formerly of the 92nd Regt of Foot during his residence in this place, that is from May 1839 till July 21st 1840, the day of his death, which was occasioned by a broke down constitution with disease of the liver, spleen & stomach and repeated attacks of jaundice. I also certify that I examined this body after his death & found that the above mentioned viscera had suffered much from repeated inflammatory afflictions as they exhibited traces of old adhesions & enlargements which in my opinion had been brought on by the fatigue & exposure & hardships during his professional life and more particularly as the consequence of intermittent fever which he told me he suffered much from whilst in Spain, & this I declare on .... and conscience to be truth.

Hickn D. Brands (?). MRCS."

Records of Other Ranks

Surprisingly, for Other Ranks the researcher is better placed in that there is more detail available and for earlier periods. See PRO leaflets M1, M3, M5, M6, M7, M9, M14, M15, M23, M24, M54 for information on soldiers. The first place to look is:

Soldiers' Documents
(Attestation & Discharge Papers) WO 97
Soldier's Documents publicly available date from 1760 to 1920 and cover those discharged on pension to 1882 and all discharged men from 1883 to 1913. About one third of serving men received a pension, whilst another third were killed, and the remainder served too short a time to be eligible. There were three categories of pension for:

1. ***Long service, a minimum of 21 years.***
2. ***Wounds received in action.***
3. ***Disabilities occasioned by service; the term worn out is frequently seen.***

Pensions were administered by the Royal Hospital Chelsea so the men were called *Chelsea Pensioners*, but the vast majority were not in-pensioners at Chelsea, (the splendid old boys in scarlet tunics), but received their allowances as out-pensioners from the payment district in which they lived. Out-pensioners were formed into *Invalid*, *Veteran* and *Garrison* companies for garrison duties in wartime, and during the 19th century were often sent out to colonies as settlers.

For background reading there is a general article by Swinnerton (1998-3), and Dean's book on the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Soldiers documents do not survive for those who:

- Died whilst serving.
- Deserted.
- Completed a limited unpensionable period of service. Such 7-year enlistments, renewable for 5-10 years, were introduced in 1806 and lasted until 1829. From 1841 there was another system of 10-12 year enlistment, renewable for a further 11-12 years. After 1870 soldiers signed on for an initial 6 year period and could renew for up to 21 years. In 1904 this was changed to an initial 3 years, in 1905 to 9 years, and in 1908 to 6-8 years, with options to extend to 21 years (Wood 1995-1.)
- Were invalided out
- Purchased their discharge (bought themselves out.)

Until 1883 you will have to know the regiment or unit in order to begin your search, see section on How to *Determine the Regiment*, and the alphabetical index of soldiers discharged from 1760-1854 (the years which are filmed) at http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk.

The latter is extremely easy to use, click search the catalogue, then fill in:

1. Surname, plus first name if you wish.
2. Year range—this is optional and it is best to leave this blank at first.
3. WO 97.

The list produced gives a brief summary sufficient to identify your man, see example in Chart 16. From 1883 the documents are alphabetical by surname for the whole army.

Chart 16: Soldiers in WO 97 Index

Pro Reference	Title/Scope & Content [Regiments usually given in order listed on the papers]	Covering Dates [Enlistment & discharge]
WO 97/134/14	Edward TOPPIN alias TOPPING. Born Clunisford, Galway. Served in 14th Dragoons. Discharged aged 29.	1833-1841
WO 97/293/41	James TOPPING. Born Haddington, East Lothian. Served in 7th Foot Regiment. Discharged aged 30.	1832-1844
WO 97/1124/308	Thomas TOPPING. Born Standish, Lancashire. Served in 3rd Royal Veteran Battalion; 84th Foot Regiment; 95th Foot Regiment. Discharged aged 38.	1794-1814

Chart 17 summarizes the worldwide accessibility of the *Soldiers' Documents* for those unable to research at the PRO themselves. When doing a search on the Family History Library Catalogue do a *keyword search* for British Soldiers Documents, or alternatively bring up the complete list of 1256 films by doing a *film/fiche search* using film number 0868536.

View the *Film Notes* and note the list of regiments, their volume numbers and alphabetical order of soldiers' names. If working from the online index the reference is quoted in the form: WO 97/183/110. The middle number is the volume that enables you to order the right film.

When viewing the film use the last number, which is the item number, to find your document. Bear in mind that there are also two further compilations of pre-1914 documents found whilst the WWI group were being sorted. These are piece numbers WO97/6355-6383 for 1843-1899 and WO 97/6323-6354 for 1900-1913, and they are arranged alphabetically but are not included in the index on the net, neither are they filmed yet.

Chart 17: Soldiers Documents WO 97

Date Range	How Arranged	Nominal Index	Who	At FHC
1760-1854	By regiment then surname	PRO at Kew & http://catalogue .pro.gov.uk	Men discharged to pension	Yes
1855-1872 #	By regiment then surname	No	Men discharged to pension	No
1873-1882	By category * then surname	No	Men discharged to pension	No
1883-1913^	By surname	Not needed	All persons discharged	No
1914-1920	By surname	Not needed	All persons discharged	Yes

*Artillery, cavalry, engineers, foot guards, infantry, & misc. corps

For Soldiers Documents Index 1855-1872 see Appendix.

^Large numbers of the WO 97 records for the Boer War (1899-1902) were destroyed during WWII bombing.

WO 97 soldier's documents may contain various parts:

⇨ **Attestation Form**

This is the form completed when he joined up and gives his age, (or what he wanted the recruiting sergeant to believe), and place of birth, trade or occupation before enlistment, and his physical description. Chart 18 is an attestation for unlimited service and was found amongst records of the 79th Foot even though it says the man is of the 69th Foot Regiment !

Chart 18: Attestation Form for Richard McCormick WO 97/894

Richard McCormick of the 69th Foot, who attested at Dublin on 27 February 1844 states he was born in the parish of Fort George, Inverness, [Scotland] and gives his age as 14 years, height 4' 53/4", with a fresh complexion, blue eyes, fair hair, no distinctive marks, no trade, not an apprentice or married, no disabilities, not serving in militia or any other armed force. He received a bounty of 2 guineas.

⇨ **Record of Service**

This is an account of his army career including places served, promotions and demotions, medals, conduct and disciplinary measures, together with the reason, date and place of discharge and intended place of residence after leaving the army. Later records will have more details, such as medical history and details of next of kin and family. Chart 19 is typical of a later record of service and has several pages of information:

Chart 19: Record of Service for William East WO 97/1206

Page 1

Royal Regiment of Artillery *whereof Field Marshal The Marquis of Anglesey K.G.* is Colonel.
Battalion or Corps: *Invalid Detachment*
Place and date: *Woolwich 15th March 1848.*
PROCEEDINGS OF A REGIMENTAL BOARD held this day, in conformity to the Articles of War, for the purpose of verifying and recording the Services, Conduct, Character and cause of Discharge of **Sergeant William East** of the Regiment above-mentioned.
President: *Lt. Colonel R. Cruttenden Cl. Arty*
Members: *Lt. Col. W. Furneaux R.A., Lt. Col. F. Warde R. A.*
THE BOARD having examined and compared the Regimental Records, the Soldier's Book, and such other documents as appeared to them to be necessary, report that *Sergeant William East* by trade a *labourer* was BORN in the parish of *St. Mildred, Canterbury, Kent* and was ATTESTED for the *Royal Regiment of Artillery* at *Woolwich, Kent* on the *23rd August 1826* at the age of *18 years*, that after making every deduction required by Her Majesty's Regulations, the SERVICE up to *11th April 1848* which he is entitled to reckon, amounts to *21 years 285 days*, as shown by the detailed statement on the 2nd page; during which period he served abroad *7 and 2/12 years* viz: *at Canada 7 2/12 years.*
And further that his discharge is proposed in consequence of *being unfit for further service.*
With regard to the CHARACTER, and CONDUCT of *Sergeant William East*, the board have to report, that upon reference to the Defaulter's Book, and by the Parole testimony that has been given, it appears that his conduct *has been exemplary. His name does not appear in any Defaulter Book.*

Page 2

Sergeant William East, being asked to what he has been paid, answered that his Account is balanced up to the latest period required by the Regulations; and being further asked whether he has any claim on the Regiment for Arrears of PAY, ALLOWANCES, or CLOTHING, answered that he has received all just demands, from his entry into the Service up to the *11th April 1848* and in confirmation therefore, affixes his signature hereto. I acknowledge this to be true (Signed) *W. East. Witness*: *Jas Campbell* (Commanding the Company to which he belongs).

The Board have ascertained that *Sergeant William East* Soldier's Book is correctly balanced, and signed by the Officer Commanding his Company, and they declare, that they have impartially enquired into, and faithfully reported upon all the matters brought before them, in accordance with the Regulations and Instructions issued by Her Majesty's Orders.

(Signatures of President & two members)

Detailed Statement of the Services of *Sergeant William East*

Royal Artillery Gunner & Driver from 1 July 1826 to 31 Mar 1830 (3 years 274 days)

3rd Battalion Promoted to Bombardier on 1 Apr 1830 to 31 Oct 1833 (3 years 214 days)

3rd Battalion Promoted Corporal on 1 Nov 1844 to 10 Jan 1837 (3 years 71 days)

Invalids Promoted Sergeant on 11 Jan 1837 to 11 Apr 1848 (11 years 94 days)

Totalling= *21 years 285 days*

William East in the above statement of his Service is credited with the Rank of Sergeant for the whole period from his appointment on the 11th January 1837 to the 11th April 1848 as sanctioned by the Honorable Board of Ordnance on the 23rd September 1835, a/396.

The foregoing Report is hereby confirmed by me Jas Campbell, Commanding *Invalid Detachment R. A.*

Page 3

Medical Report

Serg^t W^m East, Invalids
Palpitation of the Heart & Chronic Rheumatism
In 184,1 when stationed in Canada, he first began to feel pain in his left side and inordinate action of the heart whenever he rode above a walk. Since then his breathing has become much embarrassed. In 1846 he was posted to the Invalids Detachment and latterly he has felt no alleviation from the above symptoms, and has been subject to Rheumatism of his shoulders and arms. Disability caused by his Military Service.
(Signed) W. Barratt surgeon, Ordnance Dept.
OPINION of the Principal Medical Officer at *Woolwich 8^th March 1848. After a careful examination I am of the opinion that William East is unfit for service and likely to be permanently disqualified from Military duty, but that he is able to contribute something towards his livelihood.*
J. Stewart, Senior Surgeon, Ord. Med. Dept
G. Thomas, D^y Insp^r General of Ord^ce Hospitals
Woolwich, *27 March 1848*
THE DISCHARGE of the Man above mentioned is approved by the Master General. *J.D Jones*
DECISION OF THE CHELSEA BOARD
(blank)

Page 4

Final Description

Of Sergeant *W^m East* of the *Invalids*, *Royal Artillery* when Discharged the Service at *Woolwich* this *11th day* of *April 1848.*

Age:	*39 years & 8 months*
Height	*5 feet 8 ½ inches*
Hair:	*Brown*
Eyes:	*Blue*
Complexion:	*Fair*
Trade:	*Labourer*

Marks, or Scars, whether on the Face, or other parts of the Body: *Nil*

Character and Conduct were not always exemplary, as shown in Chart 20:

Chart 20: Summary of Record of Service for Thomas Kerr WO97

Thomas Kerr 79th Foot at Gibraltar 12 March 1846.
He was a labourer of Loanheads near Lasswade, Midlothian who attested in Edinburgh on 25 December 1830 at age 19. He has had 15 years and 317 days of service including 4 years 11 months in Canada and 5 years 2 months in Gibraltar.
Reason for discharge: Having been found unfit for further service.
Character and conduct: Conduct formerly indifferent but latterly improved.
Tried by Garrison Court Martial at Quebec on 14 August 1833 for striking an NCO and for habitual drunkenness. Convicted.
Tried by a Regimental Court Martial at Glasgow on 17 May 1837 for telling a falsehood and for passing out of barrack when a Defaulter and Convicted.
Tried by a Regimental Court Martial at Edinburgh on the 11th July 1837 for being absent without leave and Convicted.
Tried by a Garrison Court Martial at Gibraltar 18 March 1846 for having at Gibraltar on or about 16 December 1845 .....

The Statement of Service may include extra notes such as in Chart 21:

Chart 21: Summary of Record of Service for Donald Ross

> **Donald Ross**, soldier in 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Infantry, Capt & Brevet Major McLain's Company, born in parish of Rosskene, near Tain, Ross, [Scotland], enlisted at age 21 and served for 6 years 31 days. Discharged because of pneumonia and gunshot wound of the leg received in action with the enemy at Quatre Bras [part of Battle of Waterloo] on the 16th June 1815 and hence unfit for further service. Donald Ross is about 27 years of age, 5/6" tall, dark brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion and by trade a labourer. The above named Donald Ross is entitled to two years additional service as a 'Waterloo Man' not included above.

Joynson (in Wood 1999) noted that not all soldiers claimed their pensions immediately after discharge. He gives examples of claimants who had left the army over 50 years previous to their pension application.

Chelsea Regimental Registers WO 120

If your soldier is not found in WO 97 then try this other set which does not duplicate WO97 and covers 1715-1877. The lists of pensioners are arranged first by the regiment in which they last served then by admission date to the hospital and rate of pension. 31 films are available for various periods between 1717 and 1857 starting at film 0854645.

Pension Admission Books WO 116 & WO 117

These consist of medical disability pensions from 1715-1913 in WO 116, and length of service pensions

from 1823-1913 in WO 117. The books give the date of examination and a brief record of service, reason for award of pension, place of birth and physical description.

Examinations of Invalid Soldiers WO 116

These cover the period 1833-1913 and are contained in date order and then by regiment in huge books about 2' by 3' unopened. The entry for William East is in Chart 22:

Chart 22: Examination of Invalid Soldier

Examination of Invalid Soldiers on *Tuesday 11th April 1848.*

Regiment:	*Invalid Detachment*
Rank:	*S[ergeant]*
Name:	*Wm East*
Age:	*39 years*
SM or QMS:	*2 Battn*
Sergeant:	*11 ¼*
Corporal:	*6 ¾*
Private:	*3 ¾*
India Service:	*East—West*
Total Service:	*21 ½*
Rate of Pension:	*1 shilling and 10 pence [per day}*
Foreign Service:	*Station: Canada—7yrs 2 months*
Character:	*Exemplary*
Regimental Surgeon's Report	*Palpitation of the Heart & Chronic Rheumatism*
Invalid Dept Report	*Unfit*
Place of Birth	*St. Mildred, Canterbury, Kent*
Trade:	*Labourer*
Description:	*5'8'', hair? bald, blue eyes, fair complexion*

Kilmainham Pension Admission Registers WO 118
Those discharged from 1704 in Ireland, predominantly but not exclusively Irishmen, had their pensions administered by the Royal Hospital Kilmainham until 1822 when Chelsea took over all pensions. They are on 13 films from 1759-1863 starting at 0867583 and include indexes.

Colonial Discharges WO 69, 70 & 120
Separate classes of papers exist for soldiers discharged in Canada (WO 70), South Africa (WO 69), and India (WO 120) from 1772-1899. Chelsea Hospital out-pensions were also paid to former British soldiers who had emigrated to the colonies, and some of these can be found in WO 120/69-70 (1814-1857) and WO 23/31 for 1845-1854. See Crowder for an index for British Army Pensioners Abroad 1772-1899 from WO 120.

Pension Returns WO 22
Each payment district kept records of pensions paid out and these have survived from 1842 to 1883. If you know the district where your soldier lived after discharge, but not his regiment, this is a useful entry port to the army records. Some examples on film are:

- Australia—3 films starting at 1483381
- New Zealand—7 films starting at 1483386
- Tasmania—film 1483393

Description Books 1778-1878 WO 25
Depot Description Books 1768-1908 WO 67

A small percentage of current soldiers are described in WO 25, whilst new recruits are covered much more extensively in WO 67. The WO 25 records generally give the full name of each recruit, his age and place of enlistment, place of birth, trade in civil life, and physical description. WO 67 also gives promotions and reason for becoming non-effective. They are available from 1778, (but mainly after 1825), until 1908 but not all regiments start so early or go so late. There are 202 films for WO 25 starting at 0852105, 9 films for WO 67 starting at 0950844, and another set starting at 0916787. Each film is listed and described by Kitzmiller.

Muster Rolls & Pay Lists WO 10-16

The minutiae of army life for the common soldier can be found in the pay lists and muster rolls once his regiment is known. They are the best place to start for those not discharged to pension if they did not serve long enough or died in service. The pay lists follow each soldier from enlistment to discharge, whilst the muster rolls are records of each regiment, so they are both arranged by regiment. The details include monthly lists of officers and men, with dates of enlistment and discharge or death, rank, pay, absences, and punishments meted out. When a soldier died or was discharged it usually notes his age and trade on enlistment and his place of birth. Details of marriage and children are often included from 1868 to 1883 (Swinnerton (1998-4).

Chart 23: Pay Lists & Muster Rolls

Unit	Dates	Class	Films Examples
Artillery	1708-1878	WO 10	—
Engineers	1816-1878	WO 11	—
Cavalry, Guards & Infantry	1732-1787	WO 12	NSW 1483372 Malta 1483540 Ceylon 1483541
Yeomanry, Militia & Volunteers	1780-1878	WO 13	—
Scutari Depot	1854-1856	WO 14	—
Foreign Legions	1854-1856	WO 15	
All regiments & corps	1878-1898	WO 16	—

Deserters records WO 25

Army life was extremely harsh and thus desertion was common. Various registers of deserters from 1744 until about 1875 can be found in WO 25, and each issue of the *Police Gazette [and Hue & Cry]* in HO 75/11 included physical descriptions of new deserters. An index to the *Police Gazette* deserter listings has been prepared by the Manchester & Lancashire FHS (Marsden, and address in Appendix). Six films of this magazine covering various dates between 1797 and 1840 are available, see 0951965. There is a book on deserters during the period 1802-1831 written by Ann Chiswell and available on film 1559436 item 3.

Bounties were offered for capture and some adverts for these still exist (see Chart 24), as well as details of those receiving the rewards. Certificates protecting a man from false identification as a deserter can also be found (Chart 25.)

Chart 24: Handbill Offering Reward for Deserter

Deserted
From Bath
From the 1st Regiment of FOOT-GUARDS,
On TUESDAY Night last, Jan 19, 1808
GEORGE RUMLEY
(BORN AT HONITON, DEVON)

About 23 Years of Age, 5 Feet 11 inches and a Quarter high, dark complexion, dark brown hair, dark hazle [sic] eyes, very stout and well-made, a little Pock-marked, and by Trade a Sawyer. - Had on, when he went away, a dark Mixture Coat, with a black Velvet Collar, and white Buttons, yellow striped Waistcoat, and dark Olive Velveteen Breeches, with white Pearl Buttons at the Knees; a small round Beaver Hat, and black Silk Handkerchief, with his Hair cut regimentally;

Whoever will apprehend the said Deserter, will be entitled to TWO GUINEAS Reward, over and above what is allowed by Act of Parliament for apprehending deserters, by applying to

Wm GOWEN

Sergeant of the 1st Regiment of FOOT-GUARDS stationed at Bath

Chart 25: Deserter's Protecting Certificate

THE BEARER HEREOF
Who has been committed as being *No 897 Sergeant Robert Spence* a Deserter from the *69th (2 Bn Walsh)* Regiment

Age	*41 ½ yrs*	Height	*5 Feet 5 Inches*
Eyes	*Blue*	Hair	*Brown*
Complexion	*Fresh*	Marks	*None*

IS NOT CLAIMED FOR SERVICE IN
HER MAJESTY'S ARMY
By Authority of the Commander-in-Chief

He is therefore not liable hereafter to arrest on suspicion of being the Deserter above described.
Given at the Adjutant-General's Office this *22nd* day of *August 1887.*
To all whom it may concern, *N. Tucker Colonel*
Commanding 41st Regtl District

Army Pay Book

Families may find their soldier's pay book at home or in a museum, and this contains a page for each year with the name of the station and, for each month, amounts due to him signed by an officer, and amounts due from him signed by himself. Another space is for particulars of advances of pay and the reason for them, or compensation received in lieu of clothing etc. The pay book had to be carried on his person all the time and the back page was reserved for his will. Family historians may also come across the term military testament which is a soldier's noncupative (oral) will.

Recruitment Poster

Such items can be found illustrated in books and in collections of ephemera at archives. This one is probably of WWII vintage.

Chart 26: A Recruitment Poster

TO THE
YOUNG WOMEN OF LONDON

Is your "Best Boy" wearing Khaki? If not, don't YOU THINK he should be?

If he does not think that you and your country are worth fighting for—do you think he is WORTHY of you?

Don't pity the girl who is alone—her young man is probably a soldier— fighting for her and her country—and for YOU.

If your young man neglects his duty to his King and Country, the time may come when he will NEGLECT YOU.

Think it over - then ask him to

JOIN THE ARMY TO-DAY

First World War Records

Army officers in WWI can be found in two main series:

- Those on temporary commission or in the Territorial Army are in class WO 374 alphabetically by surname.

- Pre-war regular officers, and those commissioned into the Special Reserve or given an Emergency Commission are in class WO 339 to which there are name indexes in WO 338.

Less than 86% of the original documents regarding officers killed or discharged before 1922 have survived. Information usually includes the unit in which they served, date and place of birth, schooling, occupation, current address, name and address of the father, ability to ride, and any previous army service.

Charts 10 and 11 refer to officers who died in WWI. The major references for this period are Holding's three books and Fowler, Spencer & Tamblin. Special indexes abound, for example for the Gallipoli Campaign (Gariépy), and one for all WWI soldiers run by Mrs. Grace Bevan, (address in Appendix). Her 4-yr-old, when asked what Mummy did, ventured, "I don't really know, but I think she does something with soldiers !"

Other Ranks have two major series of records:

Unburnt WWI Soldiers Documents WO 364
These are discharge files which were unaffected by the events of WWII and are for regular soldiers who served sometime between 1914 and 1920 and were discharged mainly for medical reasons. Some men enlisted as early as the 1890s, and some files contain death certificates up to the 1950s. The contents are similar to the WO 97 files but much more extensive, there being often 10 pages of information per soldier, including:

- Attestation Sheet.
- Statement of Services, with very detailed account of career, postings, promotions etc. up to discharge.
- Military History Sheet which includes a summary of service at home and abroad, education at military college, education certificate and instructional classes, campaigns, wounds and their effects, medals and decorations, injuries, name and address of next of kin, and particulars of wife, marriage and children's births.
- Casualty Form, with embarkation & disembarkation dates and places, and admission to each field hospital etc. The next of kin and their address is frequently included.
- Regimental Conduct Sheet; drunkenness and riotous behaviour seem rather frequent, followed by a couple of day's imprisonment! This portion may include extracts from proceedings of courts martial, as in the following example:

One man in the Bedfordshire Training Dept in 1916 was tried at Ampthill for:

I. Fraudulent Enlistment

II. When on active service offering violence to his superior officer, being in the execution of his office.

He was found guilty and was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year and to be discharged from His Majesty's Service and to be put under stoppages of pay until he has made good the sum of £1-11-7 in respect of loss of kit.

- Discharge Sheet and reason for discharge; one poor chap had these notes:

Idiocy, mentally deficient. Does not understand questions, cannot learn his company drill. Cannot read and writing poor. Memory defective. Is not able to perform any military duties. Disability not due to military service.

It is comforting to think that the army did have minimum standards, but one wonders how he got into the army in the first place!

- Miscellaneous items such as the letter from a mother of an under-age son claiming him back from the army.

These Soldiers Documents, comprising 8-10% of ordinary soldiers, are available on 4835 films starting with 1566061 (Aaron, Bart-Abbott, Alfred John Charles). Do a film/fiche search for this number and the whole set will come up; it will take a few minutes as there are so many films.

Burnt WWI Soldiers Documents WO 363

These are records for those volunteers and conscripts who survived the war, who died in action or of wounds received, or who were executed. Over 60% of WWI soldiers documents were lost during bombing in WWI. Those rescued are known as the burnt documents and comprise from 25-30% of ordinary soldiers and are still being filmed by the GSU [estimated completion date August 2002.]. There are currently well over 10,000 films available starting with 2068273 (Aageson, Thomas - Abba, Walter) as shown in Chart 27. The arrangement is only roughly alphabetical thus if you don't find your man look through the whole film as well as considering variant spellings and aliases.

Chart 27: Films of the Burnt Documents

Letters	Number of Films	Starting Film #
A-E	7272	2068273
F	1045	1937138
G I J K	Not yet filmed	
H L M P	Filmed but not yet available on FHLC	
N O, Q	732	1937168
R	1008	2228752
S	3335	2198026
T	1422	2191721
U-Z	2764	1937244
3rd Collation A-Z	804	2113221

The records in WO 363 and 364 include ordinary soldiers, members of the Territorial Force and Special Reserve, as well as the Royal Flying Corps. Charts 10 and 11 refer to soldiers who died in WWI.

WWI Women's Service Records WO 398

There are some records available, such as the *Military Records of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps* also known as *Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps*, which are on 240 films starting at 2113391.

WWI Pension Records

There is a large collection of records for pensions to the war disabled and to dependants of the dead and missing, all in PMG (Pay Master General) classes, as well as Pension case files in PIN 26.

WWI Military Service Tribunals

These were held to ascertain exemptions from military service on medical and other grounds and records are in Ministry of Health class MH 47.

Records after World War I

For those soldiers ending their service after 1920 the service person or their next of kin may apply to the Ministry of Defense (address in Appendix). There is a non-refundable £25 fee and details of what is available have been given by Hurst (2000). The information given is extensive, the following is from one example:

Chart 28: Post-WWI Service Record

Full name	Date & place of birth
Address on entry	Father's name
Mother's full maiden name	Occupation prior to entry
Date of commencement boy service	10 Jan 1922
Date & period of engagement	1 May 1924 for 12 years
Personal description on entry and at age 18 years: Includes height & chest measurement, hair & eye colour, complexion, & wounds scars & marks (a tattoo).	
Official service number	
Ships & Shore establishments served on (19 with exact dates)	
Discharged to shore 30 April 1936 when 12-year service expired.	
Enrolled in Royal Fleet Reserve 1 May 1936 with (new service number) for period of 5 years.	
Briefly mobilized	28 Sep 1938-1 Oct 1938
Mobilized for war service	31 Aug 1939
Ships & shore establishments served on (7 with exact dates)	
Date of discharge	9 Oct 1945
Reason for discharge	Released in Class A
Ratings held: Boy 2nd Class	10 jan 1922
Boy 1st Class	15 Jul 1922
Ordinary Seaman	1 May 1924
Able Bodied Seaman	1 Mar 1925
Sub Ratings: Seaman Topedoman	4 Oct 1926
Acting Leading Torpedoman	15 May 1934
Character Very good throughout, apart from 1935 when good	
Good conduct badges issued	1st—20 Sep 1939
	2nd—20 May 1940
	3rd—15 Aug 1940

A CD-ROM *Army Roll of Honour—World War II* detailing British land forces deaths in the Second World War was reviewed by Goring.

Records of Royal Artillery WO 69

The records of the R.A. (including the Royal Horse Artillery) are kept separately from the rest of the army as they came under the Ordnance Office. Officers will be in the Army Lists and Kane has published a book on officers of the Royal Artillery Regiment from 1763 to 1914 and this supplies the date on which each officer started as a gentleman cadet, and his age at that time, together with dates of promotion and remarks about medals, decorations and overseas postings. Medical officers were listed separately. Laws' *Battery Records of the Royal Artillery* from 1716 can be consulted to ascertain where each company of each battalion was stationed, and which WO 10 numbers contain their monthly *Muster Rolls* and *Pay Lists*, see Chart 23. *Soldiers' Records* for the 13 Battalions and the Invalids of the Artillery are in WO 97 starting at film 0861873. The *Description Books* for other ranks 1765-1906 in WO 69 are on 107 films starting with 0866530, and *Records of Services* start at 0866548. A case study of a R.A. Riding Master has been published by Griffiths.

Records of Royal Engineers

Likewise, the records of the R.E. are kept separately as they also came under the Ordnance Office. There is a Roll of Officers of the Corps of the Royal Engineers from 1660-1898. Similar types of records exist as for the infantry and cavalry and details can be found in Fowler & Spencer. The Regimental Registers in WO 120 covering 1814-1867 are on film 0852020. There is a Royal Engineers Museum in Chatham, Kent (address in Appendix).

Records of Ancillary Services

The fighting men of the army were supported by a wide range of ancillary services that provided:

- Administrative services.
- Construction & maintenance.
- Equipment supply.
- Food.
- Medical services.
- Military intelligence.
- Training.
- Welfare for soldiers and their families.

There are records from 1873 and some earlier for:

Barrackmasters	WO 54
Chaplains	WO 25, WO 7
Civilian employees	WO 23, WO 25
Commissariat (food)	WO 61, WO 77, WO 58
Invalids	WO 25, WO 121
Intelligence	WO 37, KV 1
Medical staff	WO 25, WO 54
Military Train (food abroad)	WO 25
Nurses	WO 25, WO 145
Ordnance	WO 54, WO 111
Veterans	WO 97, WO 23

Details should be sought in Fowler & Spencer and PRO leaflets D48, M55, M66, and M74. An historical society exists for the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, which supplied munitions for the forces, address in Appendix, and there is a website at www.tripod.co.uk/RoyalArsenal. For other munitions workers see Keegan.

Military Hospitals, Institutes & Schools

Hospitals

There are several military hospitals that directly affected the rank-and-file soldier, especially regarding pension administration. Most important are:

Chelsea	(London, England)	1682-present
Kilmainham	(near Dublin, Ireland)	1679-1922

Institutes or Academies

Artillery and Engineer officers were trained at the *Royal Military Academy*, (known as *The Shop*), at Woolwich, Kent from 1741. In 1799 the *Royal Military College* (RMC) was established at Great Marlow, Buckinghamshire to train officers for the infantry and cavalry. It moved to Sandhurst, Berkshire in 1812 and merged there in 1947 with the Royal Military Academy. There were also training schools at High Wycombe Academy, Buckinghamshire from 1802, the *Royal Gunnery School* in Shoeburyness, Essex from 1859, and the *Army Medical School* at Chatham, Kent 1850, which moved to Netley, Hampshire in 1860. Student records include the father's name and are kept by the Librarian at Sandhurst (address in Appendix.) There is a index & list of the Royal Military College of Sandhurst staff & students on film 1849581 and further information is given by Titford (1998).

Military Schools for the education of soldiers' children included the *Royal Military Asylum (now School)* in Dover, Kent founded 1802 and the *Royal Hibernian Military School* in Dublin, Ireland founded 1815 but closed 1922. Records are available and a new history of the Royal Hibernian Military School by O'Reilly has recently been reviewed by Hole.

Further Sources

The Appendix lists useful addresses and many of the relevant web sites, as well as several important indexes. The Family History Library Research Outlines for England and for Wales have an excellent summary of their extensive resources; the Ireland and Scotland Outlines contain abbreviated versions. There are a large number of private specialized indexes for the military and many are listed in Gibson & Hampson.

Illustrating Your Army Ancestry

A wide variety of pictures are available from family sources, books, magazines, archives, military museums and the Internet. The Imperial War Museum Photographic Archive has over 5 million such illustrations, whilst the Jervis WWI Photographic Index collects discarded personnel photographs, researches them and makes them available (Swinnerton 1998-2, 2002-1). The *Shire* books are always good and there are military ones, including the Victorian Soldier by Nalson. One huge site of military images is at www.capefam.freeseerve.co.uk/militaryimages. The *National Monuments Record*, (address in Appendix), houses 100,000 images of people and places of Greater London (Woodward).

One group of wonderful illustrations often overlooked is the vast quantity of *postcards* produced during WWI using both photographs and paintings of such items as places, transport and hospital ships, badges, typical war situations, and groups of convalescent soldiers (Allen, Philip Chapman).

ROYAL MARINES

Duties of the Royal Marines

Royal Marines are soldiers who hold army rank but were always part of the Royal Navy and hence are treated as sailors in the PRO records by being included in the Admiralty (ADM) record classes. When at sea they were under naval discipline, and show up in the ship's books for victuals and wages They were a fighting force but also had disciplinary and security duties. They were stationed on the fo'c'sle and quarter-deck with their muskets to fire on enemy ships when within range. To repel boarders and when boarding other ships they had pikes and bayonets. Marines took part in shore raids and cutting-out expeditions (where an enemy ship was cut off from shore). On board they provided sentries at the captain's door, at the slow match by the galley (the only authorized light for smokers), at the scuttle-butt (the barrel of drinking water by the main hatchway) and, during action, at the hatchways (to prevent sailors from running and hiding in the hold) and magazines (store for arms, ammunition and provisions) (Abranson). They also helped pull ropes on deck and spent much time drilling.

Marines had regular army ranks (private, corporal etc.) and were commanded, according to their numbers or the rating of the ship, by a sergeant, a lieutenant, a captain or a major.

The usual ratio was one marine for every four seamen, thus a first-rate ship had about 140 marines whereas a 10-gun brig only had about twelve.

History of the Royal Marines

A regiment of 1200 land soldiers known as the *Admiral's Regiment* was raised to be distributed into *His Majesty's Fleets prepared for sea service* after an Order in Council of 28 October 1664. Later, other regiments were drawn off for sea service occasionally and in 1690 two Marine Regiments were formed with soldiers recruited specifically for sea service. A separate Marine Pay Service was established in 1702, but until 1755 these regiments tended to be disbanded during peacetime. They were administered by the army whilst on land but by the navy whilst at sea.

A permanent force of 5000 Marines grouped into 50 companies was established by an Order in Council of 3 April 1755. These were administered by the Board of the Admiralty and quartered in three *Divisions* at the major naval ports - Chatham in Kent, Plymouth in Devon and Portsmouth in Hampshire. More companies were added and in 1802 George III designated them *Royal Marines*. Another Division was quartered at the army and navy town of Woolwich in Kent from 1805 to 1869. The Portsmouth Division moved to Forton barracks in nearby Gosport in 1848, and in 1861 a Depot was established at Walmer in Kent, later the Royal Marine Depot, Deal.

When the marines were on active service they were formed into tactical Companies of Battalions, each containing men from many different onshore Divisions. The supply of artillery services to the navy was provided by the Royal Artillery until 1804 when separate marine companies were formed. In 1859 these were divided into the *Royal Marine Artillery (Blue Marines)* and the *Royal Marine Light Infantry (Red Marines)*. There is a *Royal Marines Museum* at Eastney in Hampshire.

Royal Marines Records for Family History

A wide variety of records survive at the Public Record Office and these are described in their leaflets M45-48. In order to pinpoint the best records to search the genealogist should attempt to find in family sources such details as:

- ✓ Name of a ship on which he served and a date.
- ✓ Medals to which he was entitled.
- ✓ Where he lived at what dates.
- ✓ His Company Number and a date.
- ✓ Whether he was a war casualty.

Records of Officers

Unlike the army system, commissions in the Royal Marines were based on competence and not sold. There were many junior officers but limited opportunity for advancement as senior ranks were slim, thus many men who started out in the Royal Marines later bought promotion into the army. Marines officers appear in the

Navy Lists, which is described later in the book. The ***List of Officers*** from 1760-1886 in ADM 192 are on 5 films starting at 1502037, described and listed by Kitzmiller. There are also some from 1717 in **Seniority Lists** in class ADM 118, and others from 1777 in the ADM 196 series. Army Lists also contain records of Marines officers, so it is worth checking those as well, for example ***Hart's Army List***. **Records of Officers' Service**, which is partially indexed, is in ADM 196 and gives much detail of service and sometimes the father's name and profession. PRO leaflets M46 and M47 are most helpful.

Records of Other Ranks

As in the army and navy it is easier to trace details about other ranks in the Marines if you know your ancestor's division or company. There are some early records in State Papers (SP) but most come under the Admiralty listings in ADM. Obtain a copy of PRO leaflets M45 and M46 to pursue this further.

Royal Marines Description Books ADM 158 from 1755-1884 Chatham Division on 9 films starting at 2179743, described and listed by Kitzmiller. The description books give a summary of the material in the attestation forms in alphabetical format under their date of enlistment and much personal detail is included.

Royal Marines Attestation Forms ADM 157 for Chatham division 1790-1883, Plymouth division 1804-1881, and Portsmouth division 1804-1881 are on 636 films commencing at 1502042, described and listed by Kitzmiller. The attestation forms are listed alphabetically within divisions but under the less convenient date of discharge.

Royal Marines Records of Service ADM 159 with indexes in ADM 313 began in 1884 when each man received a unique number within his Division. A wealth of information is contained in these records.

Royal Marines Pension Records are the same as for the Royal Navy (ADM 165 -166), as the *Royal Hospital at Greenwich* was founded to aid both Navy and Marines. Records from 1862 give considerable detail.

Royal Marines Medal Rolls

Campaign and war medal rolls are in ADM 171, and gallantry medal rolls in ADM 1 and ADM 116 together with the Royal Navy.

Royal Marines Probate

There is a collection of wills and administration for Royal Marines 1740-1764 in ADM 96, and others from 1786-1909 in ADM 48, indexed in ADM 142. These should be searched in addition to regular probate courts.

Muster Rolls for ships

When Royal Marines are on board ship they will be in the ship's muster rolls.

The following example (Chart 29) describes what kind of information can be found there:

Chart 29: Muster Roll for Royal Marines on Board HMS Bellerophon

There was a family story that Benjamin (alias Samuel) Lawrence had guarded Napoleon on his way to exile on board a British ship, HMS Bellerophon. I consulted the three books of Muster Rolls (ADM 37/5032) for March to September 1815 for this vessel.

The first volume showed that Benjamin had signed on at Chatham on 30 March 1815 but the columns for age and place of birth for the Royal Marines were not filled in, as they were for Ordinary Seamen. The right hand page had various columns giving details of his purchases on board, which included slops (clothes), bedding, tobacco, and *'Necessaries supplied Marines on shore.*

In the second volume Benjamin was again present and there was also a list of Napoleon Buonaparte's retinue of 45 persons taken on board at sea on 15 July 1815 and provided with full victuals allowance. The muster roll also shows a long list of English prisoners bound for Dartmouth, Devon who received two-thirds victuals allowance. There is also a list of *Men Run*, that is jumped ship.

Volume three shows the transference of Napoleon and retinue on 7 August 1815 to HMS Northumberland in Torbay, on which ship he travelled to exile on St. Helena. The Royal Marines, including our Benjamin, having performed their duty are noted as being discharged on 12 Sep 1815 at Chatham.

Deserters from the Royal Marines were listed in the *Police Gazette* along with regular soldiers. An index to these deserter listings has been prepared by the Manchester & Lancashire FHS (Marsden, and address in Appendix). Six films of this magazine covering various dates between 1797 and 1840 are available, see 0951965.

There is an excellent five-page synopsis of the history and records of the Royal Marines in Bevan, but the most comprehensive reference is Thomas's *Records of the Royal Marines*, and PRO leaflets M45-48 are indispensable finding aids. Since Royal Marines were part of the navy their records in the ADM Series are explained fully by Rodger (1998-1).

The Family History Library Catalogue should be used in conjunction with the Public Record Office catalogue to discover other gems, and there are other materials not in either of these major sources, such as Ayshford's Trafalgar Index (see Appendix). Swinnerton's two articles entitled *Soldiers and Sailors Too*! (2000-1) provide a very readable introduction to further information.

MILITIA

These ancient bodies were part-time armies, raised in time of need and trained for home defence whenever insurrection or invasion threatened, and especially during wartime when a large part of the regular army was abroad.

History of the Militia

Ever since Anglo-Saxon times able and free-born men have been required to be a part of their local defence force because there was no regular standing army. King Alfred set up a better county-based system that was augmented in the Statute of Winchester of 1285 requiring all able-bodied men between the ages of 15 and 60 to equip themselves with armour and weapons according to their means. Those holding less than 40s (£2) worth of land had to provide scythes and knives, others bows and arrows, pikes, halberds, swords, helmets etc., up to a horse and armour for the richest men. The parish constable (see *Researching English Occupations-Civilian Services*) was responsible for drawing up lists, called *assessments*, of who was liable for service and what weapons he should provide. His records were passed up to the county officials such as the *Commissioners of Array* or the *Lord Lieutenant*. Military service was performed as their country needed them, and the forces were also used to quell riots and apprehend wrongdoers, when it was known as the *Posse Comitatus* (Gibson & Dell). The Commissioners of Array also assessed land and goods in order to provide a tax base for financial support. These lists are discussed in the section on records below.

Owing to the divergence of opinion between King and Parliament after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, over who was to command the militia, it was decided to raise a regular standing army. The role of the militia thus changed and parishes formed *Trained Bands* for local use. The better soldier material, both for officers and men, was no doubt attracted to the regular army and thus the effectiveness of the militia declined. This became quite evident in 1685 when the *Duke of Monmouth* landed in Lyme Regis, Dorset and faced 4,000 militia men who proved no match for his band of 82 regular soldiers (J.R.Jones.) Where a particular county's militia were effective he just avoided going through that county, and they were restricted from mounting an attack outside their own county boundary, of-course. A period of dormancy for the militia ensued.

During the Seven Years War, (1756-63), most of the army was fighting in Europe and the militia system was re-established to provide civil defence in England & Wales by George II's Militia Act of 1757. This was also the time leading up to the American and French revolutionary wars. In the last decade of the 18th century Napoleon's plans to invade Britain resulted in the raising of the Volunteers, Fencibles and Yeomanry (see chart 30), as well as the re-organization of the militia in Scotland in 1797. The Napoleonic Wars of 1797-1815 were a very active time for the military, and family historians often have their male ancestors disappearing from parish records into the army or militia. Half a century later there was another major disturbance in the form of the Crimean War that caused further activity for the militia.

Chart 30: Types of Militia Forces

Name	Period
Militia	Middle Ages-1907
Volunteers	1794-1813
Supplementary Militias	1796-1816
Fencibles	c.1796-c.1853
Army of reserve	1803-1804
Yeomanry (Cavalry)	1804-1921
Local Militia	1808-1816
Rifle Volunteers	1859-1907
Imperial Yeomanry, raised specifically for the South African War	1899-1901
Territorial Force (from 1921 called the Territorial Army)	1907-date
Special Reserve (from 1921 called the Militia)	1908-1924
Supplementary Reserve	1924-1953
Home Guard (Local Defence Volunteers)	1940-1945 + 1952-1957

From 1757 an early form of conscription was introduced. Firstly, each parish had to construct a *Militia Ballot List*, (the title is often shortened to *Militia List*), with the names of all adult males, then ballots were made from this list to decide who would actually serve for that parish. If one of the chosen men was not willing to serve then he had to find another to act as a substitute for him. The lists of *drawn men* or *principals* and any *substitutes* are called *Militia Muster Rolls* or *Enrollment Lists*. Occasionally there were enough volunteers that a ballotting procedure was not required, and likewise some counties were late starting up the system.

However from the early 1760s until 1831, when it was suspended, annual lists by parish were made and form an early kind of census of adult males. Men aged 18 to 50 with some exceptions, listed in Chart 31, were to be included from 1757. This was modified in 1758 to include everyone, and in 1762 the upper age limit was reduced to 45.

CHART 31: Men Exempt from Militia

Type	Specifics
Occupations	Peers, clergy, university members, teachers, medical men, articled clerks, & apprentices.
Officials	Members of Parliament, judges, magistrates, constables and other peace officers.
Military men	Serving soldiers and sailors, other seafarers, dockyard & ordnance workers, former militiamen; and men serving during the Napoleonic Wars in the volunteers and yeomanry.
Height	Those under 5' 4", sometimes 5'2".
Disability	'Men suffering under infirmities'
Family men	Those with more than a certain number of legitimate children. Before 1802 this was 3 or 4 children under age 10; after 1802 any children under 14.

The whole idea of enforced *conscription* for the militia was uniformly hated and caused riots in 1757 and 1796 when a supplementary militia ballot was introduced. An Act of 1802 modified the procedures of record keeping, but continued unrest after the end of the Napoleonic Wars led to the suspension of the militia ballot in 1829, although some ballots were made in 1831. Thereafter only volunteers manned the militia.

There were two other defence lists operative during the Napoleonic War period, and they resemble the real militia lists. One was the *Posse Comitatus* stemming from the Defence of the Realm Act of 1798 and the other the *Levée en Masse* enabled by George III's Defence Acts of 1803-4. The purpose of these two lists was different from the militia lists as they did not concern recruitment. Instead they were compiled to organize reserves of men not already engaged in military activities who could be drawn upon to evacuate the population, remove foodstuffs from the enemy's path, gather privately owned arms and equipment, as well as supply and transport food to defending forces. In addition they would provide posses, or groups of pioneers and special constables to suppress internal riots and harry an enemy.

The *Posse Comitatus* and 1st *Levée en Masse* lists contain the names of all able-bodied men aged 15-60, and also listed those essential food suppliers the millers, bakers, and the waggon and barge owners. The 2nd *Levée en Masse* was more extensive, covering the whole population in the following categories:

- All men aged 15-55, their names, occupations and infirmities, and subdivided into four groups according to age, marital status, and number of children under 10.

- All householders, their names, sometimes ages and occupations, whether Quakers or aliens, and numbers of males and females in each household.

- Those who would need to be evacuated: women, children, the old and infirm, with names and sometimes ages and occupations.

- Men aged 17-55 who were formed into posses of pioneers and special constables.

- Other groups such as millers, bakers, waggon and barge owners, guides, stockmen, waggoners, and those possessing weapons.

- Schedules of numbers of farm animals and amounts of wheat and fodder that would need to be removed.

Chart 32: Recruitment Poster c.1800

Royal [113th] Birmingham Volunteers
ALL LOYAL and HIGH SPIRITED
YOUNG MEN
Who are desirous of joining their brave fellow townsmen
IN DEFENDING THEIR BELOVED KING and COUNTRY
And Preserving the GLORIOUS CONSTITUTION from the
Attempts of
FRENCH ANARCHY and JACOBINISM
Are desired to apply
To Colonel MAC DONELL at BRIDGNORTH
[Where the Regiment now lies] or to
Captain HAWKINS, or Captain KEMP
At the Castle Inn, High Street, Birmingham
WHERE THEY WILL RECEIVE A BOUNTY OF
FIFTEEN GUINEAS
Clear of any Deduction whatever

This Royal Regiment by special favour from his Majesty is
To consist entirely of
Noble High-Minded Dashing Birmingham Lads,
WHO ARE TO SERVE TOGETHER
And not to be Changed or Drafted into any other Regiment
But at the END of the WAR are to be Marched to their own Town
To be Discharged

EVERY VALIANT HERO
On applying as above, or to any of their Serjeants, will,
Besides the large Bounty of
FIFTEEN GUINEAS
Be Treated with every Kindness his Gallantry merits.

Bringers of good Recruits will be handsomely Rewarded,
But Crimps and Kidnappers will not be Noticed

GOD Save the KING: OLD ENGLAND for Ever.

A militiaman had to serve for three years during the period 1757-1786, but for five years if called after that. He would live at home in peacetime, spending two or three weeks a year at a training camp. They were paid, but only when on duty or in training. During wartime he would be expected to be on permanent duty, usually in another county than his home one, and his wife and children received allowances from their home parish. Militiamen were not supposed to serve overseas, although occasional exceptions did occur.

A great variety of other, voluntary forces were also raised locally during the Napoleonic Wars, including the volunteer and fencible infantry units and the provisional, fencible and yeomanry cavalry units. Many had nicknames and the story of how the Cat & Mutton Lancers got theirs is recounted by Galvin (2001/2). All of these temporary groups were disbanded after the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and by 1816 the militia had returned to its peacetime status. They were called out when internal emergencies arose, such as it did with the agricultural riots and the Reform Bill in 1831.

New groups, the *Rifle Volunteers*, were founded in 1859-1860, and during the Cardwell Reforms to the army in the 1870s, the militias became the 3rd, and the volunteer units the 4th battalions of the county regiments. It is interesting to note that the county affiliations of the militia groups, highly resented by the regular army, proved to sustain loyalty amongst men and officers, and this system was adopted by the army in their own reorganization by Cardwell.

The final episode in the history of the militia took place just before World War I when home defence was reorganized. In 1908 all the currently existing units of yeomanry and volunteers were converted into the *Territorial Force*, later called the *Territorial Army* and known colloquially as The *Territorials*. The Militia was revived in 1908 as the *Special Reserve*, returned to the name *Militia* in 1921 and in 1924 was superseded by the *Supplementary Reserve*.

There was a further conscription effort during World War II for all males aged 17-62 to join the *Local Defence Volunteers* (or L.D.V.) later re-named the *Home Guard* whence it came to be known fondly as *Dad's Army*. This was a militia type of organization 'of dubious military effect' (Gibson & Dell) which never faced an actual invasion but has been immortalized in a popular television programme.

A more extensive history of the militia before 1757 is in Gibson & Dell, and after 1757 in Gibson & Medlycott. William Spencer 1997, Medlycott (1989, 1994) and Colin Chapman's works are useful, and smaller but significant sections are devoted to the history of the militia in the Public Record Office publications by Thomas (1993), Fowler & Spencer, and Bevan. Considerable detail about all types of militia in the Napoleonic War era is provided by Chambers.

Militia Records for Family History

Despite all the regulations that the militia units had to obey they had no orders to keep records! (Normington.) Hence it is rather surprising that anything exists at all. Some were kept by the state and survive at the Public Record Office, but most were kept by the county, which means that they are now preserved in the county archives or record office. Some are still in private collections of those whose ancestors served as *Commissioners of Array* or Lord Lieutenant of the county and were responsible for making the records, or acting as militia leaders. Many of the records from all of these sources have been microfilmed and there is useful information in PRO leaflets M2 and M18.

Most of what survives are *Militia Lists* of eligible men in each parish, and *Muster Lists* of active men, but there are a few other records as well, and they start for several counties in 1522, which is prior to the earliest parish registers. The earliest return that has been found so far is for 1297 in Sussex. Militia records are most helpful as early 'censuses' of the male population as well as for the information on military service, and the assessments for funding the militia give some idea of the local status, wealth and land holdings of the family (Gibson & Dell.) Once the militia regiment is known, and it is typically that of the area in which he lived of-course, then regimental records can show its movements around the country and suggest locations for marriage or burials of militiamen. Parish registers frequently note the regiment of a serving militiaman.

The *Marching Orders for the Militia* 1759-1820 are in WO 5, and the weekly *State of the Militia* records and *Monthly Returns* (1759-1925) in WO 68 will give the location of each unit at any time (Thomas 1993.)

Militia Lists

The surviving material at the PRO for the post 1757 period is in class WO 13 and consists of musters and pay lists for militia & volunteers for 1780-1878. The series for 1781-2 have been indexed and are available, on CD-ROM from Family History Indexes. 19th century militia lists for (especially) Glamorgan, Ireland, Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk are available from the Society of Genealogists bookshop. Gibson and Dell indicate what is known to survive pre-1757, and Gibson & Medlycott for 1757-1876 and where it is located. Not all survives, has been discovered, or has been filmed. Access for most researchers is most convenient through the FHLC as follows.

The lists for the early period tend to be at the Public Record Office and can be found on the FHLC through COUNTRY - MILITARY RECORDS - MILITIA. Other lists, especially for the post 1757 era tend to be at county archives thus would be found on the FHLC at COUNTRY - COUNTY - MILITARY RECORDS - MILITIA and COUNTRY - COUNTY - PARISH - MILITARY RECORDS - MILITIA. Some may also be found under the OCCUPATIONS category. A keyword search on the CD version (not yet available on the net) with the name of your county and the word Militia will bring up most of the records. A typical list is shown in Chart 33.

Chart 33: Militia List Rogate, Sussex

RETURN to be made by the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, or Constables, to the Clerk of the Sub-Division Meeting.
Parish of *Rogate* List of Persons between 18 and 45 years
[Columns for #; Name; Description; Age; If any child, and if any, whether any under 14; Exempt, or not Exempt, from Militia; Grounds of Exemption; Effective Volunteer or Yeoman; Licensed Teacher not carrying on Trade, or Medical practitioner actually Practicing.]
Examples:
#31 DURMAN, Thomas, butcher age 26
#34 GARDNER, George, labourer, age 31, exempt, 6 children
#38 GOSDEN, Henry, labourer, age 21, exempt, cripple
#39 GREEN, Thomas, groom, age 38, exempt, to [sic] short
#43 GLUE, John, labourer, age 37
#44 GOFF, Henry, shoemaker, age 27, exempt, served

Militia Officers' Records

Appointments of officers to militia and volunteer units from 1782 to 1840 can be found in HO 50, the *Home Office Military Papers*, and the entry books in HO 51. The *Army List* records militia officers from 1865. *Officer's Service Records* may be found amongst WO 76, an example found on film 0917263 of one retiring in 1879 from the Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders Militia, which became the 3rd battalion of the Gordon Highlanders (92nd Foot), is shown in Chart 34.

Chart 34: Militia Officer's Record in WO 76/451

The Statement of Service of *William Gordon Alexander* of the *Royal Aberdeenshire Militia* with a record of such other particulars as may be useful in case of his death.
Where born: *Edinburgh*
Date of birth: *11 August 1835*
Age on his entrance into the militia: 4 years 2 months
[The double width page is then subdivided into 13 columns giving details of service as follows:]
Rank in 93rd Foot:
Ensign on full pay purchased 16 Jan 1855
Lieutenant on full pay May 1855 without purchase
Captain on full pay purchased 18 Feb 1862
Brevet Major on full pay 13 May 1875 -
Lieutenant Colonel on retirement 1 Nov 1879
Rank in Royal Aberdeenshire Militia:
Capt Adjutant 22 Oct 1875 on vacancy caused by death of
Genl Sir J. Aitcheson GCB Sco. F. Gds

Battles, Sieges and Campaigns in which present
Eastern Campaign—Siege of Sebastopol 11 Jul 1855-8 Sep 1855
Indian Campaign Rebellion 1857-58- Relief of Lucknow, Defeat of Gwalior Contingent at Cawnpore 6 Dec 1857 and persuit [sic] to Serai Ghat 9 Dec 1857, Trentyan (?) Affair at the Bridge of Kallanuddee 2 Jan 1858, Capture of Lucknow 2-21 Mar 1858 (Lieutenant) Allegunge, Battle of Bascilla, Action of Pusgawner23 Apr 1858 and 5 May 1858, 9 Oct 1858 (Lieutenant) Russulpore Noor 1875, Evacuation of Fort William C. Dec 1858 (Lieutenant), Action of Biswah Dec 1858, General Lord Clyde Umbeyla Nov 1863 to Jusitialy (?) 1864 under Major General Sir J. Garrod (Captain).

→ Continued from last page

Titles, Honorary Distinctions & Medals & station
Crimean Medal with Clasp from 16 Jan-1 July 1855 GB
Turkish Medal from 2 Jul 1855-16 Jun 1856 Crimea
Indian Medal, 2 Clasps from 17 Jun 1856 to 13 Jun 1857 GB
And 14 Jun 1856 to 28 Mar 1870 East Indies
North West Frontier Medal, 1 Clasp from 29 Mar 1870 GB
Doing duty with Rohiland Horse and Adjutant... 17 Irregular Cavalry... East Indies from Mar 1859 to Jun 1861, 2 ½ years. Retired 1 Nov 1879 with Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel (London Gazette 31 Oct 1879) District order No 2 3 Nov 1879 and pension of £255 per annum (H. Gds letter 68519/48 d (20 Oct 1879 Rel letter BH No 371)

Marriage: *12 Feb 1861 at Jedwarpore House, Tirhout (?), Bengal*
To Joan MacKnight Crawford by Rev William King MA
chaplain Mozrefferpore (?) Terhout

Legitimate Children—name, date of birth, place of baptism
William Adrian (?) Gordon 11 Dec 1861 Peshawar, East Indies
Agnes Nina Beatrice Gordon 16 Nov 1864 Sealkote, East Indies
Henry Trevor Gordon 30 Jun 1871 Edinburgh

Service on Full Pay- Abroad *14 yrs 242 days*
At Home *6 yrs 109 days*
Signature of Officer *W. Gordon Alexander*

Certifying witnesses — The Commanding Officer and Paymaster have not signed, but only the Adjutant which was himself !

Records of service of officers from 1757 to 1925 of disbanded militia regiments are in WO 68, most of which can be found on 141 films starting at 0917051. There are some WO 68 items on the PRO List (fiche 6342554) which are not on the FHLC. Lists of officers and dates of commissions for the Yeomanry of Ireland 1797-1825 on film 1279329. *Muster Books* in WO 13, *pensions* in WO 23 and *births and christenings* in WO 32 are other sources (Fowler & Spencer.)

Militiamen's Records

A great variety of material is available but scattered in location so persistence is needed. I show here a call-up paper (Chart 35), two papers regarding provision of substitutes (Charts 36 and 37), and information on attestation papers and muster rolls, finishing with a look at what the man's local parish chest may hold relevant to him and his family.

Chart 35: Militia Call-Up Paper 1803

I DO hereby give you Notice that you are chosen by Ballot to serve in the Army of Reserve, pursuant to the Act of Parliament for raising such Army, and you are hereby noticed and required to appear at the Meeting of the Deputy Lieutenants, to be held at the New Bayley Court House, in Salford in the said County, on Tuesday the thirtieth day of August now next ensuing, at none o'clock in the Forenoon, then and there to be sworn and enrolled as the Statute directs, to serve in the said Army of Reserve, unless you then and there bring with you and provide a Substitute, to be enrolled and sworn to serve for you, which Substitute is not to be rejected or on Account of the Number of his Children: and if you neglect to appear at the Time and Place aforesaid, for the Purpose aforesaid, you will forfeit Twenty Pounds, and be liable to be again ballotted; and you will also, in Case you neglect to appear on the Day aforesaid, and at the Place, and for the Space of Fourteen Days after the Delivery of this Notice, be advertised and treated as a Deserter. Given under my hand the 16th day of August, 1803.

Joseph Nadin
Deputy Constable of Manchester

Chart 36: Payment for Substitute

Received 25th September 1781 of Mr. Luke Clement Churchwarden of the Parish of Pulborough in the County of Sussex for Thomas Joyce ye person initially drawn by Lot to serve in the Militia for the said Parish, the Sum of Ten Pounds paid at his Request to the Sussex Regiment to provide a proper Person for his Substitute.

John Bayley

Chart 37: Certificate of Provision of Substitute

ROYAL SURREY MILITIA *First* REGIMENT
THESE ARE TO CERTIFY
That *Charles Watts* of the Parish of *Camberwell (Peckham)* in the said County of Surrey, having been ballotted to serve in the said Militia, for the said Parish, did on the *Third* day of *May 1825*, find and provide *Robert Bailey* to serve as his Substitute in the said Militia, who was duly Sworn and Enrolled accordingly.

John Clutton
Clerk to the Southwark Court of Lieutenancy

Attestation Forms

WO 96 is the class containing the attestation forms of those who served only as militiamen, but they only cover 1806 to 1915 and most are in the last half of the century. They are similar to the soldiers documents in WO 97 (see chart 19), and indeed some (mainly Irish) militia regiments are found therein if they later volunteered to serve in the regular army. They are organized by regiment then surname. There is an index for WO 97 but not for WO 96 yet; one example found on the WO97 index at http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk is shown in Chart 38.

Chart 38: Militiaman in WO 97 Index

Pro Reference	Title/Scope & Content [Regiments usually given in order listed on the papers]	Covering Dates [Enlistment & discharge]
WO 97/276/51	Robert TOPPING Born Wigan, Lancashire. Served in 5th Foot Regiment; Lancashire Militia. Discharged aged 34.	1809-1827

Muster Rolls

The researcher can trace a man from his date of enlistment to discharge or death through the muster books and pay lists. The Public Record Office has them for all kinds of militia from 1780-1878 in WO 13. Others remain in county hands, naturally, and they can turn up in the strangest places since there was no national co-ordinating agency for taking or storing the records. There are two union lists showing what is known to survive for each parish in England, Wales, Scotland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland:

- Gibson & Dell's Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls (pre 1757)
- Gibson & Medlycott's Militia Lists and Musters 1757-1876.

The latest edition should be consulted as more lists continue to be discovered, such as the ones I found for 1803, 1807 and 1810 on film 1551143 inscribed inside the front cover of a Halifax Out Town Poor Relief book, (Chart 39). Please assist the compilers, as I did, by reporting any lucky finds that are not yet included. Most seem to be microfilmed and can be found on the FHLC as described under Militia Lists above.

Chart 39: Subdivision Rolls of Ballotted Men & their Substitutes Serving for the Parish of Halifax

Enrolled 10 Feb 1803		
Person Balloted	**Substitute**	**Class (1-5) & Remarks**
Jonas FOSTER	Thomas DEAN	1
Saml SURIE	Isaac HARGREAVES	1-3 Oct 1881 volunteered for 25th Foot
John NICHOLL	James JACKSON	5-discharged 17 Jun 1812
Supplementary Militia enrolled 11 Jul 1803		
Robt SETTLE	John WALKER	1
Willm MITCHELL	Jas WALTON	2
Samuel GREGSON	Job BREARLEY	1
Army of Reserve enrolled 8 Aug 1803		
John FURNESS	Joseph WEST	1
James BOOTH	James JARMAN	1
Men raised by Beat of Drum & placed by Ballot to the Town of Halifax August 1810		
Ezekiel HAINSWORTH	Of Allerton	13 Jul 1811 volunteered into 33rd Regt of Foot
George FIRTH	Of Northowram	Discharged as unfit for service 25 Jun 1812

Some indexes for Militia Records exist and a mention of the magnificent series by parish produced by the Hertfordshire Family & Population History Society. The 1781-2 musters, indexed by Hore & Tamblin, can be purchased through the Society of Genealogists. Other societies have also been active; extracts from East Surrey's fiche index for Mitcham can be in Chart 40. Indexes of Volunteers for southern England are being produced by Defence of the Realm Indexes.

Chart 40: Extracts from Militia Index for Mitcham, Surrey

Name	Ref	Date	Other Information
NEWMAN, Jeremiah	30/53	24 Feb 1811	—
OXLEY, John	30/44	17 Apr 1809	Substitute for Geo. GODFREY
REYNOLDS, William	10	17 Jan 1805	Born & residing in Frimley. 18 yrs, labourer, Reserve D
RICHARDS, John wife Mary & child	30/43a	30 Mar 1809	Residing in St. Mary Newington

Other records exist for militiamen at the Public Record office, such as *Chelsea Pension Records* in WO23, and payments to men and their families in E 182 *Exchequer: King's Remembrance*: Particulars of Account or Land & Assessed Taxes (Fowler & Spencer, Thomas 1993, and being indexed by Chambers.) Leaflets M2, M18, and M72 from the PRO web site give further details. All kinds of miscellaneous records and ephemera will be found in county archive collections and as not all is on microfilm an enquiry is worthwhile.

Thus, Wiltshire Record Office has a poster offering a reward for the apprehension of Michael Byrne belonging to the Ulster Volunteers, illustrated in Cole & Titford. Another example of material held at a County Record Office, entitled *Cheshire Militia 1759-1826*, is on four films starting at 1564173.

Parish Poor Law Records

According to Acts of Parliament of 1758, 1793, and 1803 each parish had to support the dependants of its militiamen. The militiaman got a certificate of service from his captain which he sent to his wife. She gave it to the Overseers of the Poor or obtained a Justice of the Peace's Order for payment (Camp 1999-2) which could come from the Poor Rates or the special Land Taxes. Charts 41 & 43 are examples from parish collections, found on the FHLC through POORHOUSES, POOR LAW ETC. of the COUNTY or PARISH listings . Other records are findable through the OCCUPATIONS category.

Chart 41: Order to Support a Militia Wife

Walter Sergeant of Pulborough is serving as a substitute for George Lovell of Brightling. Pulborough is ordered by a JP to pay for his wife's upkeep but will be reimbursed by Brightling.

Sussex: To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Pulborough in the said County and to every of them —
Whereas complaint upon Oath hath been made before me, Walter Smyth Esqu, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County by Ann Serjeant now dwelling in your said Parish, wife of George Serjeant a private Militia Man serving in the Militia of the said County as a Substitute for George Lovell of the Parish of Brightling in the said County (which Militia are now embodied and in actual Service and have been ordered to march), that she, the said Ann Serjeant is not able to support herself. I do therefore hereby require you the said Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Pulborough aforesaid, to pay unto the said Ann Serjeant the sum of One Shilling and Sixpence weekly for and towards the support of her the said Ann Serjeant until you shall be otherwise ordered to forbear the said Allowance, Which said weekly sum is to be reimbursed to you by the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Brightling aforesaid who are hereby required to reimburse the same accordingly.
Given under my hand and seal the Fourth day of November in the Year of our Lord 1797. *Walter Smyth*

Chart 42: Payment of Support to Militiaman's Wife

From Tonbridge Parish Chest material on film 1835473. The Goodwins live in Tonbridge but William is substituting for a Maidstone man thus Maidstone re-imburses Tonbridge.

The Overseers of the Parish of Tonbridge
To the Overseers of Maidstone

1806

To Cash advanced Charlotte the Wife of William Goodwin, a Substitute serving in the West Kent Militia for William KINCHIN, towards her support from June 2nd 1806 to Decr 2nd 1806 being 26 weeks at 2/- per week

£2.12.0

Janry 20th 1807
The above Account being verified on the Oath of John Ruck is allowed by me.
John King, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the King's Town and Parish of Maidstone

Chart 43: Payment of Support to Militiaman's Wife
From Hadlow parish chest material on film 1701919. William Pearce and his family are of Marden and he is serving as a substitute for John Stevenson, ballotted to represent Hadlow.

KENT to Wit. To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Hadlow in the said County.
Whereas *Joseph Clout*, one of the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of *Marden* in the said County, hath this Day made Oath before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, that in pursuance of an Order under the Hand and Seal of *Lord George Murray*, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, he hath expended the Sum of *Thirteen Pounds and ten shillings* towards the Support and Maintenance of *Elizabeth Pearce* the wife of *William Pearce*, who is now serving as a Substitute for *John Stevenson* of your said parish of *Hadlow* in the West Kent Militia, which is now embodied and in actual Service; and also for and towards the Support and Maintenance of the *Five* Children of the said *William Pearce* and *Elizabeth Pearce*, being *Thirty* weeks allowance at *Nine* shillings per Week, from the *Twenty fifth* Day of *March last* to the *Twenty first* Day of *October last*. NOW THEREFORE I do hereby in pursuance of the several Statutes in that Case made and provided, order and direct you the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of *Hadlow* on Sight hereof, to pay and reimburse to the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Marden the said sum of *Thirteen Pounds and ten shillings* so by them advanced for the relief of the said Family of the said *William Pearce* and for so doing, this shall be your sufficient Authority. GIVEN under my Hand and Seal this *Fifth* day of November in the Year of our Lord One Thousand *Seven* Hundred and *Ninety Nine*.

[signed] *J. Andrews*

CRANBROOK. Printed by S. WATERS

EAST INDIA COMPANY & COLONIAL REGIMENTS

A number of merchant companies were incorporated by British Royal or Parliamentary charter, including:

- *the Honourable East India Company*
- *the Virginia Company*
- *the Royal African Company*
- *the Levant Company*
- *the Hudson's Bay Company*
- *the Russia Company*
- *the Eastland Company*
- *the South Sea Company*
- *the Merchant Adventurers.*

Many of our ancestors would have been involved in some way with them as they made their influence felt around the globe for perhaps 300 years. Trading was followed by colonization and both needed a military presence to ensure law and order.

The British had armies to boost its colonial presence around the world in India from the early 1700s, and then other continents and outposts during the 18th and 19th centuries. I'll consider here the greatest and grandest imperial jewel, India, and cover briefly the colonial army presence in other countries. There were dozens of other places from Aden to Zanzibar in which the British Army served. Some idea of the scope can be found in the huge list of countries and their depots, barracks etc. by date given by Kitzmiller.

History of the East India Company

The Honourable East India Company (HEIC) was incorporated on 31 Dec 1600 by Queen Elizabeth I and was often called by its nickname *John Company*. HEIC was set up as a trading company importing silks and spices in return for guns and other metal goods, and became a very progressive and political organization, and a successful imperialistic force. Trading stations were established at Surat and later Fort William in north west India, then at Fort St. George near Madras on the south east coast, and in 1662 at Bombay in the north east.

These formed the basis of the three major divisions of India (including what is now known as Pakistan, Bangladesh & Burma or Myanmar) controlled by HEIC, the *Bengal*, *Madras* and *Bombay Presidencies* respectively. [The majority of references in British censuses etc. to *East Indies* refer to India, but include the Indonesian Archipelago.] Other areas were ruled by a host of native princes, and called the *Princely States*. HEIC developed many subsidiary trading posts within their three presidencies, and they also had some others in the Spice Islands and other places in the east, with Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra being a separate presidency for a time until the Dutch drove them out of Indonesia.

A very lucrative East India Company trading station was established to deal in tea in Canton, China in the mid-eighteenth century. Each of these trading stations needed protection provided by their own army,

familiarly known as *John Company's Troops*. At first these were solely native men under native officers and with their own style of weapons.

The merchants became very wealthy indeed, and even the clerks and administrators were encouraged in entrepreneurial endeavours, such that service in John Company was much sought after. Entry largely depended on insider influence, and sons of merchants and others with influence were trained in special colleges in England to fit them for service in India. Many families served the company for three or four generations, the younger folk coming out to India and the older ones retiring in affluence to England.

The French were England's main rival for trade and colonization in India, and both formed alliances with various Indian princes resulting in much warfare. The French were vanquished at Plassey in Bengal by Robert Clive in 1757. The company raised and collected taxes and administered justice over much of the Indian subcontinent. Corruption amongst the directors was supposed to be prevented by William Pitt's 1784 Board of Control. The company tried to safeguard its interests by acquiring more and more Indian territory, naturally unpopular with the Indian people. This came to a head with the Indian Mutiny in 1857, suppressed by HEIC but at the cost of being taken over by the crown. Queen Victoria became Empress of India and the *Government of India* (known as The *Raj*) in Delhi, ruled through a governor-general called the *Viceroy*, and the *India Office* in London until independence in 1947.

Each of the three great administrative areas, the Bengal, Bombay and Madras Presidencies, were run autonomously simply because India was so huge, with difficult terrain and climate and practically no communications facilities. Each presidency had its own infantry, and later cavalry, that became the *Indian Army* under one Commander-in-Chief in 1748. The three areas each contained separate European and Native (*sepoy*) regiments, so named but commanded by European HEIC officers. Additionally the native princes operated their own private armies. These armies were at first small but numbers escalated from the mid-1700s until the 1857 mutiny. Thus, in addition to the British merchants, there was a huge number of British army officers and soldiers proud to be in HEICS - the Honourable East India Company Service. In 1861 the European regiments became part of the British Army, of which many regiments served tours of duty in India as the *British Army in India.* The sepoy regiments formed the *Indian Army* with British officers and controlled by the viceroy in Delhi.

Further information on the history of the East India Company can be found in Fitzhugh, Fowler 2002-1 (who strongly recommends Gabb), and Herber.

East India Company Records

Service in HEIC created a rich source of biographical material including:

- Records created at the India Office in London.
- Records of the factories (trading stations) in Asia.
- Records of the Company's armed forces.
- Log-books and other records of the merchant ships.
- Christening, marriage and burial records in India.
- The printed *India (Office) List* from 1803, containing all Company servants (personnel).

Most of the records form part of the *Oriental & India Office Collection (OIOC)* of the British Library, and have now moved from south London to a new location near St. Pancras Station (address in Appendix.) Their records are described in their free leaflet *Sources for Family History (Oriental & Indian Office Collections Guide #4)*. Some material is held at the Public Record Office (mainly British Army in India), and at the Society of Genealogists. The only major source of records remaining in India are monumental inscriptions, and BACSA (The British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia; address in Appendix) have an ongoing programme of transcription and publication of these.

Questions that need to be answered in relation to British men in India include:

- Was he a merchant or in the army or in some other capacity?
- Which presidency was he in- Bengal, Bombay or Madras?

If in the army:

- Was he an officer or a regular soldier?
- Did he serve before about 1859 and therefore in HEICS, or during the Raj after then?
- If he served after 1859 was he in the British or Indian Army?
- Was he in infantry, cavalry or artillery?

Records of Service in India

Herber presents a very readable introduction to the embarrassingly large amount of records available. A few of the more important ones are described here.

Army Lists

Whitaker's Naval & Military Directory and Indian Army List is available on film for 1899. *Bengal Army Lists* 1867-1849 (IOR/L/MIL/10) can be found on film starting at 1867205; examples follow in charts 44-46. The *Bombay* ones from 1759-1855 are in IOR/L/MIL/12 starting at film 1952297, whilst *Madras* 1759-1846 can be found starting at film 1885505.

Chart 44: Bengal Army List 1794 Extract

Fort William Military Depot 14 May 1794
Infantry with Date of Commission & Remarks

Colonels

Gilbert IRONSIDES 14 Sep 1774. Name crossed out - on furlough.
George BURRINGTON 7 Dec 1793

Majors

George RUSSELL 7 May 1781
John SCOTT 21 Sep 1781 In England on furlough
Thomas BOTTON 5 Feb 1784 Killed in action...

Captains

William SIBBALD 16 Jan 1793
Joseph CHANNING 6 Jun 1793 Home, resigned.
William PRESTON 7 Dec 1793 Brigadier Major
George S. BROWN 9 Dec 1793 Aide de Camp to Col. Briscoe

Lieutenants

Robert DUNKLING 1 Aug 1778 Captain 22 Jan 1794
Christopher ROBINSON 6 Aug 1778 On furlough
Samuel JONES 7 Aug 1778 Adjutant 15th Sepoy Battalion, Capt 2
Sep 1794.

Chart 45: Bengal Army List 1791 Extract

Fort William Military Depot List of Promotions, Appointments, Removals & Resignations in the months of November & December 1791

Promotions

16 Dec

Acting Captain Andrew GLASS promoted to the full rank of Captain.

Acting Lieutenant Robert TULLAH promoted to the full rank of Lieutenant in the room of Lieutenant WITTET.

Mr Edward DARRELL cadet promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Fireworker to take rank as such in the Army and in the Artillery from the 16th December 1790

Appointments

4 Nov Mr Charles DESBOROUGH appointed Surgeon to the station of the Collect of Mominsing (?)

7 Nov Colonel MORGAN appointed to the station of Puttyghur, and to the General Command in the Field.

16 Dec Lieutenant Charles WTTTET appointed an Acting Captain from the 12th November 1791.

28 Dec Major James SMITH appointed to the command of 8th Battalion of Native Infantry vacated by the death of Major Charles CHATFIELD.

Removals

16 Dec Assistant Surgeon William BOYD be removed from Tirhoot and appointed Surgeon to the Garrison of Buxar... Mr John BARCLAY deceased.

Resignations

7 Nov Mr John James TOTTINGHAM cadet

16 Dec Ensign Thomas BOYDELL of the Corps of Engineers

24 Dec Captain John CAMPBELL

Chart 46: Bengal Army List 1787 Extract

Casualty List of Commission Officers, Warrant Officers and Cadets on the Bengal Establishment from 1st July 1785 to 1st July 1787

The eight columns contain name, rank, corps, removed (from what cause & when), where, remarks, and in what ship embarked

Giles STIBBERT, Major Genera, Infantry, by supercession, 21 Jul 1785, Calcutta, on the arrival of General SLOPER.

Thomas ADDERLY, Major, Infantry, dismissed, 11 Sep 1785, Fort William, Embarked for England on the Severn Packet which was wrecked in the Bay.

R.C. BIRCH, Deputy Paymaster of Garrison & Artillery, struck off, 22 Sep 1785, --, post abolished.

John FOX, Captain Lieutenant, Artillery, Deceased, date unknown, on his passage to Europe.

Alexander BRIGGS, Lieutenant Fireworker, Artillery, Resigned, 24 Jan 1786, Fort William, on the pension.

Robert ARMSTRONG, conductor, Ordnance, deceased, 16 Apr 1786, Chunar.

Clavering WOOD, Minor, Cadets, struck off, 2 May 1786, pursuant to the orders contained in the Court of Directors

General Letter in date 21st Sep 1785 Par.

Biographical Index of India Office Collection

Start first with this index of over 300,000 Europeans and their families who were in civil, military and non-official employ in India.

Army Purchase Commission 1871
In WO 74 are the registers of service of every officer who held a commission as of 1 Nov 1871, and applications from officers on Indian establishments 1871-1891 with the certificates of service attached. This material is indexed by regiment but not by surname.

Casualty Returns
For soldiers see *Muster Rolls*; for officers from 1800-1895 there are three films starting at 1885828.

Civil Registration
The births, marriages and deaths of officers and men in the British Army in India are in the Overseas Indexes, (charts 6, 8 and 10), typically in the Chaplains Returns.

Civil Service Appointments
HEIC offered opportunities for employment in its civil service. The entry level was as a *writer*, (junior clerk/ book-keeper) from whence he worked his way up to *factor* and finally *merchant*. Many of the early writers were charity boys or of mean parentage who wrote good hands, but by the 1750s even the lowest rung of writer was much sought after by clergymen's sons and impoverished aristocrats. Large amounts of records survive and are microfilmed from 1749-1857 on 26 films starting at the index on 1912123. Thus the original application, or *petition*, from Robert Dashwood survives in J/1/10/49, see Chart 47.

Chart 47: Thomas Dashwood's Writer's Petition

To the Honble Court of Directors of the United East India Company

The humble Petition of Thomas Dashwood Sheweth that your Petitioner having been educated in Writing & Accounts & humbly hopes himself qualified to serve your Honors abroad.

He therefore humbly prays your Honors to appoint him a Writer at any of your Settlements in India, in which Case he promises to behave himself with the greatest Diligence & Fidelity, & is ready to give such Security as your Honors shall require.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray.

[Nominator] W. Devaynes

Accompanying certificates

Kimbolten 23 January 1781

This is to certify that Thomas Dashwood Esquire hath gone through a regular course of Book Keeping and Merchants Accounts. *William Bolton*

London 29th Janv 1781

This is to certify that Thomas Dashwood the son of Sir James Dashwood Bart was baptized the 18th day of January in the year 1748 as appears by the Register of the Parish of St. George Hanover Square. *Rd Pitt, curate.*

In the List of Writers appointed for the East Indies in the Season of 1780 (IOR/J/1/10/106 & 107] Thomas Dashwood's name appears in the list For Bengal, whilst a relative, Robert Dashwood appears For Fort St. George. The document is endorsed by Honourable Warren Hastings, a prominent figure in India's history at the time.

Commander-in-Chief's Memoranda WO 31

The letters written in support of the purchase of a commission by Robert Dashwood were found in WO31/72 as follows:

Chart 48: Purchase of Ensign Commission Memoranda 20 Jun 1798—80th Foot

[To] Officer Commanding the 80th Regiment
Sir,

I beg you will be pleased to obtain for me His Majesty's Permission to purchase the Ensigncy in the 80th Regt vacant by the Promotion of Ensign St. George.
In Case His Majesty shall be graciously pleased to permit me to purchase the said Commission, I do declare and certify, upon the Word and Honour of an Officer and a Gentleman, that I will not, either now, or at any future Time give by any Means, or in any Shape whatever, directly, or indirectly, any more than the Sum of £400 being the Price limited by His Majesty's Regulation as the full Value of the said Commission.

I have the Honour to be
Your most obedient humble Servant
Rt Dashwood

I hereby declare that I verily believe the established Regulation with regard to Price, is intended to be strictly complied with, and that no clandestine Bargain subsists between the Parties concerned.

For M. Genl St. Leger *Cap E. Greenwood*

[To] Field Marshal His Royal Highness The Duke of York
Craig's Court, 8 June 1798

Sir,

We are directed by M. General St. Leger, commanding the 80th Regiment to request your Royal Highness would be pleased to move The King to grant a Commission appointing Mr. Robert Dashwood, to be Ensign by Purchase, vice St. George promoted. The purchase Money being lodged in our hands.

We have the Honor to be with great deference & respect, Sir, Your Royal Highness's very faithful and devoted Servants,

Cap. E. Greenwood

This can then be followed up in the Army Lists and in later successive sections for the 80th Regiment of Foot Robert Dashwood can be seen as follows:

Ensign	20 Jun 1798
Lieutenant10	Nov 1800
Captain30	Oct 1806

Depot Court Martial Books
These can be found starting at film 1786578.

Depot Registers of Recruits
Lists of artillerymen 1811-1860, cavalrymen 1857-1860, and infantrymen 1801-1860 give recruit's age, place of birth, former occupation and description, plus the regiment to which allocated. They are listed by troopship and not indexed, but may be accessible via a2a.

Deserters from HEIC Army 1844-1851
Lists of these are in WO 25.

Directories
Contemporary directories had long columns for announcements of Marriages, Births and Deaths by year, month and day, thus in the *Madras Almanac for 1827* can be found:

> 29 July 1826 At the New Church, Vepery, Mr. R. GREEN, medical department, to Miss F. DASHWOOD, eldest daughter of the late captain R. Dashwood of H.M. 80th regiment of Foot.

Discharge List from Indian Army

Chart 49: 1861 Discharge List Extracts Film 1867205

The 23 columns are summarized in text form here.

George FREEMAN *admitted a pensioner, a subcond in Commissioner's Dept with 21 years service, Madras Presidency, age 43, height 5'6 ½", fair complexion, hazel eyes, dark brown hair, by trade a clerk, native of Cavan, Ireland, character good, per ship 'Theresa' Dec 1865, enlisted in Glasgow, no marching money, cause of discharge-pensioned.*

Thomas Hy COWEN*, not admitted a pensioner, a private in local infantry with 5 yrs 9 months service, Madras Presidency, age 32, height 5'5", dark complexion, brown eyes, dark brown hair, by trade a laborer, native of Sheffield, character good, per ship 'Theresa' Dec 1865, enlisted in Rotherham, no marching money, cause of discharge-unfit for further service.*

Charles BLAKE *not admitted a pensioner, gunner in local artillery with 20 years service, madras Presidency, age 38, height 5'7 ¼" fair complexion, black eyes, dark hair, by trade a laborer, native of Oxford, character very bad, per ship 'Theresa' Dec 1865, enlisted in Southampton, no marching money, cause of discharge-with ignominy for repeated acts of desertion.*

James LLOYD *not admitted a pensioner, private in Lahore Light Horse with 4 years 7 months service, Bengal Presidency, age 30, height 5'6 ¾", fresh complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair, no trade, native of Longford, Ireland, character good, per ship 'Eastern Empire' 17 Feb 1865, enlisted in Barrackpore, no marching money, cause of discharge under the provisions of Govt letter No 211 of 22 May '65 having been granted a gratuity under clause 6 of that letter.*

→ Continued on the next page

Thomas SANSBURY *not admitted a pensioner, gunner in 1By local artillery, with 21 years 4 months service, Bengal Presidency, age 41, height 5'7 ¼", fresh complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, by trade a brickmaker, native of Sussex, character indifferent, per ship 'Alnwick Castle 13 May 1866, enlisted in London, no marching money, cause of discharge - admitted to pension.*

Francis MANWELL *admitted as pensioner, serjeant 2nd... Regt with 22 years 3 months service, Bombay Presidency, age 45, height 5'5 ½", fresh complexion, grey eyes, dark hair, by trade a laborer, native of Mid Lothian, Scotland, character not known, per ship 'Cospatrick' 28 Mar 1866, enlistment place not given, no marching money, cause of discharge - pensioned pr G.O. 20 May 1860.*

Charles WILKINSON *admitted to pension, serjeant in artillery with 21 years service, Madras Presidency, age 39, height 6', fair complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair, trade not given, native of Plymouth, Devon, character unexceptional, per ship 'Cornwallis' 14 Apr 1866, enlisted in Plymouth, no marching money, cause of discharge — time expired.*

Discharge Records

Regimental depot musters in WO 67 contain records of soldiers discharged on return from India before 1806. Those who took the unpensioned discharge option at the time the British Army took over in 1859-1861 survive, thus Madras Army Discharges for these three years are on 4 films starting at 1886124. The Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire musters record discharges of men returning from India from 1863 and 1878 in WO 12.

There is similar material in the muster rolls of the Gosport Discharge Depot, also in Hampshire, for 1862-1889 in WO 16. No musters for engineers in India survive, and only a few 18th century ones for artillery there, but most musters of infantry and cavalry in India from 1863-1889 are in WO 16.

Ecclesiastical Returns for Presidencies 1683-1948

There are about 1,000 volumes of these records with good indexes, and most are on film. The earlier christenings give the date of birth but not always the mother's name, especially if a native *country woman.* The marriages are given after the groom's names in the index, and actual entries show the names of both fathers. Many girls married at age 14-15, as was the custom amongst the natives of the country (*personal communication* from Ena Thomas, my Burmese/Indian/ Scottish aunt). Burials usually give the date of death. Examples of entries are in Chart 50. Catholic registers are also available for the early Victorian period.

Chart 50: Bengal Ecclesiastical Returns Baptisms, Marriages, Burials 1755-1783 Film 0498607

Pages signed by two chaplains: Gervas Bellamy & Robt Mapletoft

Extracts from Christening's [sic] in Calcutta 1755	
Jan 13	Lydia d/o Mr. Charles Child school master & Christiana his wife
Feb 24	William s/o Mr. John Afton pilot & Mary his wife
Feb 25	Mary d/o Capt Thomas Swain mariner & Martha his wife
Sep 10	John a slave boy belonging to Mr. Luke Scrafton
Sep 18	Mary d/o Capt Samuel Latton & Sarah his wife deceased
Dec 3	William s/o Lieutenant William Bishop by a Country Woman

Extracts from Marriages in Calcutta 1755	
Feb 6	Lucas Johnson soldier in Capt Buchanan's Company & Natalia a country woman*
Feb 19	Hendrick Warren in the train & Rosa a country woman*
Feb 22	Peter Duncan mariner & Mrs Sophia Holland widow
Jul 14	John Downing a sloopsman & Maria a country woman*
Sep 29	Peter Francis Fromages & Anna Gysberta Boswater were married at the French Gardens
Nov 29	Mr Hugh Morgan mariner & Miss Sarah Wells inhabitant

* 11 of the 15 marriages in 1755 were to 'country women'.

Extracts from Burials in Calcutta 1755	
Oct 10	Hendrick Vincent soldier in Capt Minchin's Company
Oct 11	John White inhabitant
	Charles Witherington infant
Oct 29	Susanna D'Costa inhabitant
Nov 8	Mrs Jane Douglas inhabitant
Nov 15	William Prosser, 3rd mate of the Anson

Embarkation Lists 1734-1861

Before 1801 these give the place of origin, and some give information on soldiers' wives and children. Films start at 1835455 for the years 1753-1861.

Entry Papers

Entry papers for those wanting to join the HEICS between 1749 and 1856 are extant.

India Lists

These are similar to the Army List but include civil servants, East India company ships and their masters, and European inhabitants in India and so forth. The volumes are entitled:

- East India Co. Register & Directory 1803-1858. M.M. Publications sell fiche reprints of the 1808, 1811, 1821, 1831 and 1851 editions.
- India List 1860-1906
- India Office List 1907-1937
- India & Burma Office List 1937-1947.

An example from the 325 fiches (starting at 6028163) of the lists covering 1886-1940 follows in Chart 51.

Chart 51: India Office List for 1886 Extracts Fiche 6028163

'Containing an Account of the Services of the Officers in the Indian Service and other information'

First come tables of names and dates when they assumed office of:
Presidents of the Board of Control 1801-1858
Secretaries of State for India 1858-1886
Under Secretaries of State for India (Permanent, Parliamentary and Assistants) 1858-1886

And then with dates and remarks:
Governors of Bengal 1733 - 1774
Governors-General of Fort William in Bengal 1774-1828
Governors-General of India 1828-1856
Viceroys and Governors-General of India 1858-1886
Governors of Fort St. George 1652-1886
Governors of Bombay 1662-1886

Table of Salaries Sanctioned for the Chief Officers of the Administration of India
This includes Justices and Judges and ranges from 42,000 rupees for a Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab to 250,800 rupees for the Viceroy.

Native Princes and Chiefs if India
The names and titles of the rulers of 55 separate states are listed.
And so forth down to
The Indian Troop Service via Egypt
Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill
Royal India Asylum, Ealing and the
Indo-European Telegraph Dept

Then follows The India Office List, a 'Record of the Public Services of Officers and others' in alphabetical order.

A few examples:

ABBOTT, Henry Bryan, Major, Bombay S.C., Political Dept, Government of India. *1st commission Jun 1861; served with 109th Foot; joined Bombay staff corps Jun 1873 & appointed assistant to the Governor-general's agent in Rajputana; officiating settlement officer Ulwur 1874; officiating political agent Eastern States, Rajputana 1875; political assistant Maunpoor, & deputy Bheel agent 1875-6; on special duty at Jhallawar 1876-7; superintendent of Jhallawar 1877;additional political agent Jhallawar 1883; graded as additional political agent 1st class.*

ADAMSON, Charles Henry Ellison, Captain, MSC, Burma Commission. 1st commission royal artillery Jan 1868; served with 5th brigade at Kirkee & Rangoon till 1870; admitted to Madras staff corps 1870; joined Burma commission Dec 1871, and served as assistant magistrate, assistant commissioner, and officiating magistrate, and president of municipal committee, Rangoon; deputy commissioner Jun 1885.

AHSANUDDIN, Ahmad (Barrister-at-Law) Bengal C.S.. Appointed assistant magistrate & collector on probation under the native civil service rules Dec 1881.

FINLAY, Herbert Blakey, Bengal C.S. (North Western Provinces.) Educated at the High School & University of Edinburgh; appointed to Bengal civil service after open competitive examination 1864; arrived in India Dec 1865; from May 1866 served in NW Provinces as assistant magistrate & collector; from Oct 1873 to Apr 1880 served in the settlement dept; appointed settlement officer 3rd grade, Banda Jul 1878; joint magistrate & deputy collector 1st grade Nov 1880; officiating magistrate & collector, Agra Mar 1882; deputy commissioner 2nd grade Jul 1885.

→ Continued from last page

FIREBRACE, Frederick, Major R.E., Public Works Dept, Government of India. Joined the public works dept as assistant engineer NW Provinces May 1865; officiating assistant consulting engineer for railways, Bengal May 1868;executive engineer, railway branch, Central India Sep 1870; Neemuch railway survey Feb 1871;asistant director of state railways Mar 1875;manager Rajputana state railway Nov 1876;1st class state railway revenue establishment Apr 1877; under secretary to government if India railway branch Jan 1880; superintending engineer 2nd class May 1884.

FITZGERALD, Edward Ambrose Surgeon-Major, Medical Dept, NW Provinces. Assistant surgeon, Bengal medical establishment 27 Jul 1859; arrived in India 27 Jan 1860 & employed under military dept 1860-68; from Fen 1868 served in NW Provinces as civil assistant surgeon & superintendent of jail, Jaunpur; rank of surgeon Jul 1871; surgeon-major Jul 1874; served subsequently as civil surgeon at Shahjahanpur, Mirzapur, Agra, Moradabad, & Aligarh; promoted to senior surgeon-major Jul 1879.

List of Officers in European Regiments 1796-1841

These are in army records WO 25.

Muster Rolls & Casualty Returns

Records are available for the:

- Bengal Army 1716-1861 on 39 films starting at 1867447.
- Madras Army 1762-1861 on 41 films from 1885893.
- Bombay Army 1708-1865 on 40 films from 1966429.

Useful personal details about men start in the 19th century.

Newspapers
Several English language Indian newspapers existed from 1780 and can be accessed.

Officer Cadet Registers and Entry Papers
These are held for 1775-1860, are jointly indexed, and include information on parents and educational qualifications, and many have christening certificates and letters of recommendation. Those for 1789-1860 are on 70 films starting at 1886143. The indexes are available on www.a2a.pro.gov.uk. Many of these cadets were educated or trained in England (Titford 1998) at:

- *East India College* which trained the company's clerks was established at Hertford in 1806, but transferred to *Haileybury*, Hertfordshire in 1809.
- *Royal Military Academy, Woolwich* 1798-1808.
- *Royal Military Academy, Marlow* 1802-1809.
- *Addiscombe Military Seminary* in Surrey, 1809-1859 formed from the Academies at Woolwich & Marlow. Later called the *Royal India Military College* 1859-1861. Records on film start at 1867022 and Oliver has provided an interesting history.
- *Royal Engineers Institution* at Chatham 1815-1862.

Others received training in India, for example at *Quetta* and *Wellington Indian Army Colleges*, whose records start on film 1866993.

Officers of the European Regiments
Lists of officers 1796-1841 are in WO 25.

Pension Records
Pension registers & indexes of HEIC 1849-1876 and of the Indian Army 1849-1868 are in WO 23. The pension register for HEIC former soldiers of the period 1824-1856 is in WO 25. Miscellaneous pension funds existed, and records extant include that for the Lord Clive Fund that started in 1770.

Personnel records for Uncovenanted Civil Service
These were the junior and technical grades and cover 1818 to 1947.

Probate Indexes 1618-1909
There are 24 volumes of indexes to wills, administrations and inventories in Z/L/AG/34.

Recruit Registers 1817-1860
These are listed by recruiting district and give the recruit's age, place of birth, former occupation and description, plus the regiment to which allocated, but are not indexed. Recruits were housed in barracks at home: at Newport, IOW 1801-1815, Chatham 1815-1843, and Warley, Essex 1842-1860. They were then shipped out to India in groups of several hundred at a time.

Registers of East India Company
European Soldiers
Gives personal details and place of origin 1786-1860s. No soldiers who died before 1831 are here.

Service Records
Service records of men who served in HEIC and the Indian Army up to WWI are available. The records of men who served in the British Army in India are described in the chapter on the army.

War Diaries from WWI & WWII
Those from Indian Army formations in the First World War are in WO 95, and from the Second World War in WO 160-179.

Those having ancestors born and raised in India may have Indian and other Asiatic ancestry as well as British. Indians are referred to as *East Indian* or *Indo-Briton*, whilst those of Portuguese-Indian descent were termed *Eurasian*. Those having a British father and Indian mother were called *Anglo-Indian* and would have their father's surname even if their parents were not married, and be Christians. As happened in North America, many men had *country wives* as well as a British wife at home, and Fowler (2002-1) has indicated that at least a third of HEIC's men had Indian wives or mistresses. The researcher should be prepared to encounter more than one wife and set of children, with upper ranks sometimes having several at once!

By 1789 the products of these inter-racial marriages, Eurasians and Anglo-Indians, were seen to be a potential threat to security and were prevented from serving as soldiers in the Indian Army. Later they were excluded from senior posts in HEICS but could still become bandsmen, surveyors and apothecaries. In the early 19th century these unfortunate people were

discriminated against by both the British and Indians; for their work they tended to concentrate in postal, telegraph, customs and the railway systems. An elegant summary of two and a half centuries of social history is found in Fowler (2002-1)

The really great news is that the British Library, Oriental & India Office Collections catalogue is on the net at www.a2a.pro.gov.uk and these indexes are searchable by keyword, such as a surname. The OIOC's Ian Baxter's 2001 excellent article is essential reading on what is available and in progress in the Access to Archives (a2a) facility on the net. They have allowed the GSU to microfilm huge amounts of material; only a tiny sample of films have been given in this text as examples. When researching from afar it makes sense to fully utilize the a2a indexes and descriptions of the records combined with the FHLC for obtaining those you need to see.

Hodgson's Index to British Officers in the Indian Army, the Bengal Army, and the HEIC Army (but not the British Army in India), together with maritime officers and EIC civil servants, is held by the National Army Museum. A database of 65,000 Europeans and Anglo-Indians in India on British Indian family history website at www.ozemail.com/au/~clday. Gabb's book on Anglo-India 1600-1947 will be useful background reading. Baxter (1990) provided an authoritative guide to the British Library collection, and N.C. Taylor has authored a source book for the Society of Genealogists' collection. British and European ancestors in India and South East Asia from 17th to 20th centuries are the

focus of British Ancestors in India (UK) Ltd's *Indiaman Magazine* at www.indiaman.com. There are over 70 links to useful web pages. Fuller, and Sally Carter have described typical searches for HEICs families in India, and Pitcher has chronicled a HEIC voyage to China in 1806 on the Marquis of Ely, and lists the whole ship's company.

Colonial Regiments

During the 18th and 19th centuries Britain was establishing colonies around the world and the army raised separate colonial regiments as needed, often including former members of the British Army. Britain also used some foreign regiments as mercenaries, the most notable perhaps being German:

- *Hessians* fought in North America from 1776.
- *King's German Legion*, which fought during the Napoleonic Wars and was formed from the disbanded *Hanoverian* army.

Many such former soldiers chose to remain in the lands in which they had served or came to Britain. The Public Record Office recommend R. Perkins as the best review of these regiments. Records exist at the Public Record Office in London as well as in the archives of the former colonies themselves. As a general rule the following are available from the PRO:

- Casualty Lists and associated indexes 1798-1817 in
- WO 25.
- Half Pay Returns for officers from the Canadian
- forces 1783-1813 in WO 24.

- Muster books in WO 12.
- Pension records including:
- Admission books for pensions 1817-1875 and 1880-1903 in WO 23.
- Registers in WO 22.
- Records of Colonial Militia in WO 13.
- Returns of ordinary soldiers and non-commissioned
- officers 1806 in WO 25.
- Soldiers Documents 1760-1872 in WO 97.

Records of the *Cape Mounted Rifles*, *Ceylon Rifles*, *Royal Canadian Rifles* and the *West India Rangers* are in WO 25 at the PRO. The CO (Colonial Office) records also contain material on some colonial regiments.

Australia

Those interested in tracing members of the Australian Imperial Force who served 1914-1919 will be assisted by the AIF Project database, (address in Appendix), of all the men and women who served overseas (Bastow).

North America

Those interested in soldiers who came with the British Army to Canada should consult Stewart (1962) for information on which regiments, battalions and companies served where and when. This information can also be found in Kitzmiller. There are 571 films of British forces in North America from the Canadian National Archives C series, starting at film 1683760.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

History of the Royal Air Force

The Army's *Royal Flying Corps* (RFC) was established in 1912 and the *Royal Naval Air Service* (RNAS) was founded in 1914. These grew out of early artillery and engineers' experiments and manoeuvres with balloons as described concisely by Swinnerton (2000-2).

He has also told us (2001-4) the political background to the merger of the RFC and RNAS to form the Royal Air Force (RAF) in 1918 towards the end of World War II. The *Women's Royal Air Force* was also formed then and the only complete muster list of the whole air force was compiled at that time.

Officer training was started at the *Central Flying School of the RFC* in 1912, but in 1920 the *Royal Air Force College* was established at *Cranwell*, as the equivalent of the Army's Sandhurst and the Navy's Dartmouth. Details on training, *Officer Training Corps* in boys' schools and on the different *Auxiliaries*, such as the *Air Transport Auxiliary* and the *WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force)* can be found in Wilson.

There were various types of training units such as *Initial Training Wing*, *Elementary Flying Training Schools* and *Operational Training Units*. Technical airmen, those having served an apprenticeship as a fitter, rigger, armourer, mechanic and so forth, were usually trained at *Halton RAF College*.

Between the two world wars the RAF carved out a niche for itself providing alternatives to garrisoning tiny, far-flung outposts, carrying supplies, providing rescue and air-ambulance service and airlifting refugees. Hurst (1996) describes a good number of interesting books on special RAF historical topics for this period, and this is updated in Hurst (1997.)

The RAF came of age during the Second World War and the heroes immortalized in books and movies involving especially Biggin Hill RAF station, the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940 and the Battle for London that autumn. When I was young we lived close enough to hear the aircraft at Biggin Hill post-war air shows, and every schoolboy could recognize the distinctive sound of each airplane engine.

Royal Air Force Organization

The RAF has a different structure than the army and navy, see Chart 52. It is based on a number of *Commands* specializing in certain duties, which are subdivided into several *Groups* covering certain geographic areas. These are made up of various *Squadrons* of, for example, 12 to 24 aircraft.

Chart 52: Royal Air Force Organization

Commands
Named by type of duty or overseas theatre of war
Air Officer Commanding in Chief

Groups
Numbered by geographic area
Air Commodore or Air Vice Marshall

Squadrons
Numbered by sector of geographic area
Squadron Leader

The Commands are different during wartime and peacetime as seen in Chart 53.

Chart 53: RAF Commands in War & Peace

Wartime RAF Commands	
Bomber Command	Fighter Command
Coastal Command	Training Command
Maintenance Command	Balloon Command
Reserve Command	RAF Mediterranean
RAF Far East	RAF Middle East
RAF Iraq	Air Forces in India
RAF Aden	RAF Palestine & Trans Jordan
Peacetime RAF Commands	
Strike Command	Support Command
RAF Germany	

There was also an air force peacetime equivalent of the militia or territorial army called the *Auxiliary Air Force*. During the Second World War these personnel were transferred to the *RAF Volunteer Reserve* and served alongside the regular air force. Wilson has demystified the complex details of RAF organization and rank, and explains the numbers and abbreviations prevalent in this service.

The RAF had 170 airfields in the UK in 1939 and a further 444 were built, usually hurriedly, during the war. When bases for flying boats, temporary parking bays, runway extensions, maintenance units, training schools for ground crew, storage depots, signals and medical units are included there were over 700 air bases or *RAF Stations*, some used by the US Air Force.

Each station was directed by a *Station Commander*, and consisted of three *Wings*, Flying, Technical or Support, and Administration, directed by a *Wing Commander*. Each of these wings was further divided into Squadrons, Flights and Sections.

The staff consisted of *officers* and *airmen*, and the term *aircrew* was used for anyone who actually flew, regardless of his rank. All aircrew were volunteers for these jobs, and in the air the captain, who was always the pilot, was in command even if higher-ranking officers were aboard. There were no women aircrew until after World War II, but up to 182,000 women served at a time in clerical duties, as radio operators, mechanics, fitters, drivers, kitchen staff, batmen, coding and cyphering as well as bombing-up and operating radar.

Royal Air Force Records

Many of the same records as were described in the chapter on the army are also applicable to the RAF, in particular those relating to those who died in the line of duty, thus they will not be repeated here.

Naturally, air force records cover only the most recent century, and it comes as a disappointment to learn that they rarely note genealogical information except dates and places of birth, and next of kin, items which are probably already known to the researcher. The record searcher can, however, expect details about everyday life of the person employed in the air or ground crew.

It is worth investigating your family memorabilia for clues such as the air force number and where the person served. I have a couple of typical examples:

- As the person registered for the One-Name Society for Brickett I was given a *ditty box* with an engraved name plate reading:

  W.H. Brickett
  R.N. Air Service.

  It had belonged to Walter Harold Brickett, (born 1894), who had no descendants, and is a wooden box 12 x 8" and 6" deep used by sailors to store personal odds and ends. His contains his passport dated 1929, several photographs of his wife, a ship and people in uniform, three war medals, and his wife's 4" high silver chalice inscribed Crescent Tennis Club, Ladies Champion 1931, Mrs. E.F. Brickett. These provide several clues to start a search for his service records.

- My parents received two *military aerograph* Christmas greeting cards from my Uncle Bernard Alfred Gardner serving in RAF ground crew in the Mediterranean in 1943 and 1944 (Charts 54 and 55.) These were standard forms, microfilmed and sent by air mail to the receiving country, then developed, printed on thin paper, cut to separate the letters, folded and inserted into window envelopes to show the recipient's address and forwarded by ordinary mail. Plain ones were available for regular letters, and they saved precious paper in wartime as well as providing a far quicker service than regular sea mail. The censor naturally ensured that servicemen

did not give their actual locations, but servicemen quoted their # and unit, thus we found these clues:

Corporal B.A.Gardner
1167088 No 894 AMES RAF BNAF in 1943
Corporal B. Gardner
8005 AMES RAF CMF in 1944.

These would seem to relate to the Air Ministry Experimental Station of the British North Africa Force and the Central Mediterranean Force. This information is certainly sufficient to begin a search for his records.

RFC Records 1912-1918

Officers' records will be found in the army records WO 339 or WO 374. A percentage of records of airmen discharged prior to April 1918 survive in classes WO 363 and 364 of the army service records, see the sections on burnt and unburnt records in the chapter on the army.

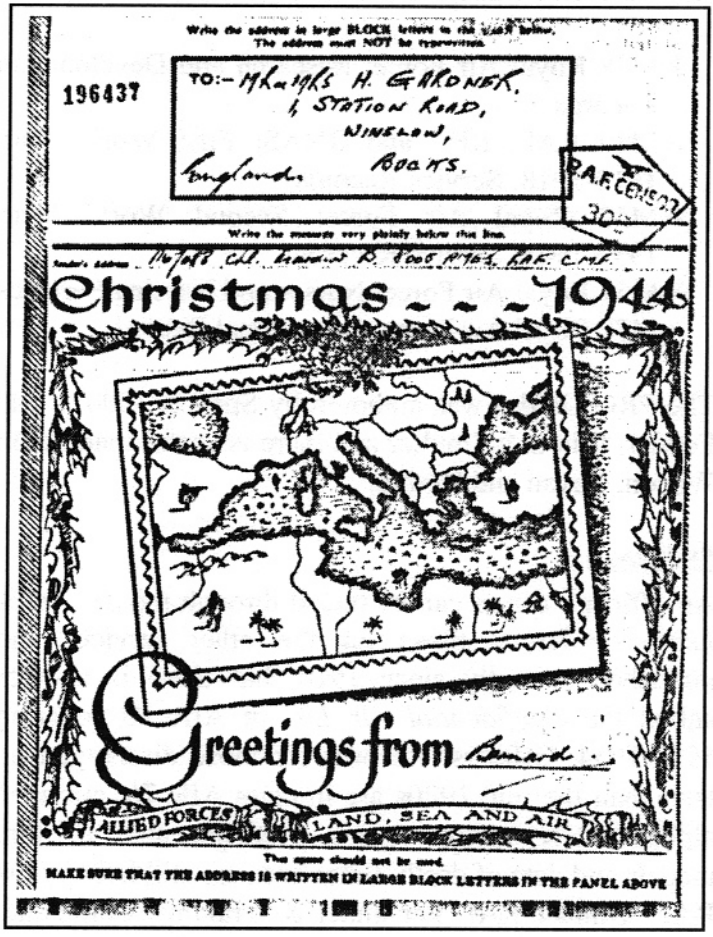
RNAS Records 1914-1918

Officers records are in navy (Admiralty) class ADM 273, for which there is a name index, and 86 volumes of Other Ranks records are in ADM 188. These are for service up to 31 Mar 1918 and give the date and place of birth, physical description, date of enlistment, rating, description of ships or stations served upon, assessment of character and conduct, and date of discharge.

Chart 54: Bernard Gardner's 1943 Xmas Card

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.
TO- MR & MRS. H. GARDNER,
1, STATION ROAD,
WINSLOW,
925516 ENGLAND. BUCKS.
Write the message very plainly below this line.
Sender's address
"Wishing you all the best for Xmas, and a Happy New Year."
Bernard
7
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN
from Bernard

Chart 55: Bernard Gardner's 1944 Xmas Card


196437
TO:- Mr. & Mrs H. GARDNER.
1, STATION ROAD,
WINSLOW,
England. Bucks.
Christmas ~ ~ ~ 1944
Greetings from Bernard
ALLIED FORCES
LAND, SEA AND AIR
MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

RAF Records 1914-1920

The researcher should download the relevant Public Record Office leaflets available from their website:

- M28 Royal Air Force: Research and Development Records
- M49 RAF, RFC and RNAS: First World War, 1914-1918: Service Records
- M50 Royal Air Force: Second World War, 1939-1945: Service Records
- M57 Royal Air Force: Nurses and Nursing Services
- M70 Royal Air Force: Operational Records

The PRO Guides was authored by Spencer (2001), and Fowler, Elliott & Goulter and there is useful material in Wilson, Bevan and Herber.

Officers

An officer's career can be traced through the *Air Force Lists*, similar to those for the other services and published annually since 1918, but there is another called the *Confidential Air List* in AIR 10 covering 1939-1954. Officers' Records for those discharged no later than the mid 1920s are in class AIR 76, arranged alphabetically giving men's postings, next of kin, medals and date of death. Later ones are still held by the RAF: contact RAF Personnel & Training Command. Other material on officers such as combat reports, recommendations for promotion etc. can be found in AIR 1 and this is indexed (Bevan).

Other Ranks

Airmen's Documents for RAF Enlistments #s 1-329,000, (mainly World War I), are in AIR 79 and arranged in RAF Service Number order, to which there is an admittedly poor index in AIR 78. AIR 79 usually gives date & place of birth, physical description, religion, next of kin, spouse & children, date of joining, promotions, units served in, medals earned and date of discharge.

The *RAF Muster Roll* shows all Other Ranks in the newly formed RAF on 1 Apr 1918, which is the basis of the alphabetical *RFC, RNAS & RAF Register* 1914-1919, a project by David J. Barnes described in his 3rd 2002 article. Service Records for the *Women's RAF* 1914-1918 are in AIR 80.

Records of those with numbers higher than 329,000 and those below this number who went on to serve in World War II are still with the RAF and Ministry of Defence, see addresses in Appendix to contact for details.

Fleet Air Arm Records

These are held by the Ministry of Defence and records are released with the same conditions as post-1920 army records. There is a *Fleet Air Arm Museum* at Ilchester, Somerset with further records on officers and ratings (Barnes 2002-3).

Miscellaneous

The RAF Archives & Museum at Hendon not only has planes and a card index to every plane that flew in the RAF, but also a huge collection of privately-deposited officers' papers, as well as photographs and air log books. They have issued a series of information leaflets:

- Personnel Records (pre-1918)
- Personnel records (RAF: WAAF: WRAF)
- Royal Air Force Unit Records
- Royal Air Force Stations: Information Sources
- Aircraft - Service Histories

The RAF Association runs a magazine, *Airmail*, for ex-RAF personnel and accepts requests for contacting former RAF members. *Cross and Cockade International* is the First World War Aviation Historical Society and they have a web site (see Appendix).

In parallel to army records there are RAF records of *Casualties* and *Air Crashes*, *Courts Martial*, *Medals and Awards, Medical Records,* and *Prisoners of War and War Crimes*. These are amply detailed in the PRO guide to RAF records written by Spencer (2001).

Wilson describes several books containing narrative accounts of wartime experiences of airmen from different units, and she also has a good section on uniforms, badges and emblems. She has also compiled a RAF Index about RAF officers and other ranks. An index of airmen is at the PRO, and is part of a project to extract all names of RAF other ranks from PRO records.

ROYAL NAVY

The geography of Britain necessitated a strong seafaring tradition, and for centuries the Royal Navy has been responsible for protecting British commercial interests on the high seas and for the defence of its shores. The following paragraphs are an attempt to provide a basic framework for the novice of a vast field of history, records and literature.

The history and organization of the Royal Navy are far more complex than indicated here, and ranks and duties changed a great deal over time, and are acknowledged to be unclear in many places by the archival staff at the Public Record Office (Rodger 1998-1).

The author is not an old sailor and begs the forgiveness of navy buffs for condensing their favourite section of the *senior service* in the provision of a text of manageable size. Its purpose is to act as a stepping stone, allowing the reader to proceed to the more complex texts, references and documents mentioned herein.

Rodger's classic volume is a necessity for serious research but has the drawback of only dealing with material housed at the Public Record Office. It should be used together with the FHLC catalogue, and with complementary texts covering other archives' holdings.

History of Royal Navy

Prior to the Tudor kings, the monarch could call upon merchant ships to supplement his own small fleet in times of war. In particular, trading privileges were granted in the Middle Ages to the south eastern coastal towns of Dover, Hastings, Hythe, Romney, and Sandwich (and later, Rye and Winchelsea), known as the *Cinque Ports*, in return for contributions to naval defence. The first Tudor king, Henry VII, had seven merchant ships, which in those days were easily convertible to defensive use. The Tudors recognized the need to have a strong navy to defend England as well as to develop trading and colonial interests abroad. His son, Henry VIII, greatly expanded this fleet and founded the English Navy Board in 1546 to oversee it. The latter's daughter, Elizabeth I, developed it further, and it was during her reign that the Spanish Armada was repulsed in 1588. The fame of Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) as a diarist has obscured the fact that he was the energetic and capable naval reformer who superbly administered the *Navy Board* after 1660, during the reigns of Charles II and James II.

Most families have some connection with the Royal Navy as it was one of the country's largest employers for over 200 years. During the Napoleonic War period in the early 1800s a large sailing ship required nearly a thousand men. Sailor's careers consisted of intermittent periods of paid work, especially during wartime, and unemployment.

Many would alternate between naval and merchant service wherever they could find work. Captains were responsible for manning their own ships and keeping their own records, thus a great variety is seen today amongst those that survive.

Seamen's lives are often depicted as adventurous and exciting, but underneath the glamour there was another side as conditions were harsh in the navy, particularly for those below deck. Pay was poor and often delayed for months or years; food was atrocious; conditions dangerous; and punishment frequent and severe. There were people who chose the navy as their career voluntarily, but pay and conditions were better in the merchant service. Most seamen of the Royal Navy up to 1815 were recruited forcibly by the press system that favoured men used to the sea such as merchant seamen, ferrymen, fishermen etc.

Navy recruiting centres were opened up in taverns termed *rendezvous*, where candidates were persuaded to touch the *King's shilling*, the typical sign-up bonus. Harbour taverns, and merchant vessels at sea were raided by press gangs, and if these didn't bring forth enough recruits then the prisons were emptied for the *King's hard bargains*. Many men disappeared from parishes this way until the *Press Gang* died out in the early 19th century. Former sailors of any kind tended to move away from ports and inland to avoid the attentions of the press gangs. Certain numbers of sailors per fishing boat or merchant vessel were able to procure protection from the press and records of this from 1702-1828 are in ADM 7.

It should also be noted that for various reasons many men used one or more aliases for different periods in the navy, or for navy and shore life. A clever idea was to enroll under an alias so that if later impressed he could revert to his real name and claim mistaken identity to be released (Michael Wood). Burnard paints a good picture of the press gang's activity, and in an article about the press's effect on the fishing villages of NE Scotland Mathewson states that only in 1830 was a limit of 5 years put on time served as an impressed man, and contends that impressing is still legal today.

Conditions did improve in the 19th century, even flogging was abolished (during peacetime only) in 1871, and a regular scheme of entrance into the Navy came about with the *Continuous Service Act* of 1853. Men could enlist for a 10-year period from age 18, with regular increases in pay and a right to a pension after 20 years service.

Those already in service often took up this offer as well, and thus it becomes far easier to trace them through the *Continuous Service Engagement Books*. In 1903 another system was introduced whereby men could sign on for 5 or 7 years, and commit another period of 7 or 5 years respectively, making a total of 12 years, to the *Royal Fleet Reserve*.

Organization of Royal Navy

Officers Commissioned by the Admiralty

They commanded ships, naval stations and detached squadrons; during peacetime many were put on a kind of retainer with no work, but receiving half-pay and liable for call-up as needed. Until 1860 appointment to the upper levels of officer rank was only by commission, which depended upon the ability to pay and the right social connections. It was possible, especially in wartime, for an outstandingly capable man to rise through the ranks from ordinary seaman through to commissioned officer (see Chart 62).

- The ***Lord High Admiral*** commanded the whole battlefleet consisting of three squadrons of 3-7 ships-of-the-line and a number of supporting frigates and smaller vessels. The three squadrons were in a strict order of seniority
  i. Firstly, the Centre Squadron commanded by the ***Admiral of the Red***
  ii. Secondly, the Van Squadron commanded by the ***Admiral of the White***
  iii. Lastly the Rear Squadron commanded by the ***Admiral of the Blue***

The admirals were the *flag-officers* who each oversaw his squadron from a ship recognized by a red, white or blue flag (hence *flag-ship*), but didn't actually command that ship, which had its own captain. Admirals were promoted strictly on seniority.

- *Commodores* were in charge of isolated divisions or squadrons of ships; it was a function rather than a rank.
- *(Post-) Captains* commanded frigates and ships of-the-line. Promotion to this coveted rank was by examination, merit and influence. He was termed a *Flag-Captain* if he had an admiral on board.
- *Commanders* and *Masters* commanded the larger vessels such as sloops-of-war.
- *Lieutenants* were graded as 1st to 6th according to length of time in the rank, were in charge of deck watches, and commanded a battery of guns; they could also command a small naval vessel such as a schooner or brig.

The *Midshipmen (Middies)* did not hold commissions, but were young gentlemen, usually from wealthy or aristocratic families, training to become commissioned officers. They joined at age 12-14 as *junior midshipmen* and slung their hammocks in the gunroom, where they were under the supervision of the gunner. They learned navigation and other skills from the captain or sailing master, and if there was a chaplain on board he would also act as schoolmaster to them. At about age 17 they passed up to *senior midshipmen* and transferred their hammocks to the orlop deck.

Midshipmen had several responsibilities; they made and received flag signals, supervised groups of men aloft, and were in charge of a division of guns (Abranson). There were also *Officer Cadets (Snotties)* who were one rank lower than a midshipman.

The *Royal Naval Academy* for training midshipmen opened in 1733 in Portsmouth. In 1806 it was moved to Portsmouth as the *Royal Naval College*, and similar colleges operated at Greenwich and now Dartmouth, Devon. Rodger describes the various records of these colleges.

Warrant Officers

They worked for the Admiralty but most were regulated by the Navy Board or Trinity House. They came from the ranks but had passed examinations and were appointed by a warrant from the captain certifying their skills and rank. Surgeons, gunners and engineers had usually either served an apprenticeship or held a professional qualification.

- ***Sailing Master*** was the most important non-commissioned officer aboard as he was in charge of navigation and of sailing the ship. In 1808 they became commissioned officers.
- ***Carpenters*** were in charge of the hull and spars.
- ***Coopers*** looked after the barrels.
- ***Sailmakers*** kept the sails, canvas covers, awnings and hammocks in good repair.
- ***Armourers*** were the blacksmiths and responsible for small arms.
- ***Master-at-arms*** taught fencing with swords and cutlasses and was also in charge of discipline on the ship, and ensured that the curfew was observed.
- ***Boatswain (Bosun)*** was in charge of all the rigging.
- ***Gunners*** were in charge of all the artillery and the powder magazines.

- ***Quartermasters*** steered the vessel and acted as leadsmen when soundings for water depth were required.
- ***Cooks*** also held warrants and did the best they could with the meagre provisions they were assigned.
- ***Surgeons*** held warrants after 1815 and were commissioned officers after 1843. Assisted by surgeon's mates and orderlies known as loblolly boys.
- ***Pursers*** were in charge of the stores and accounts and held warrants after 1815 and were commissioned officers after 1843. They were assisted by purser's mates.
- ***Chaplains***.
- ***Naval Instructors***.
- ***Engineers*** became commissioned officers in 1847.

The term **Civil Officer** was used to describe surgeons, pursers, chaplains, naval instructors and engineers. Likewise the term **Petty Officer** was used for *Mates*, who were assistants to various warrant officers e.g. masters mate, surgeons mate; *Midshipmen*; the *Top-captains* in charge of a gang of topmen working from the top; *Gun-captains*; and sometimes for *Warrant Officers*. The masters, boatswains and midshipmen were known as **Standing Officers** because they stayed to maintain the ship even when it was out of commission.

Ratings were the ordinary sailors and so-called because they were rated to various jobs according to their ability and experience. The old experienced men-o'-war men were rated fo'c'sle hands and worked the anchors and jibs etc.

The agile younger men were rated topmen and worked aloft with the sails. In order of ability, and thus pay, were:

- ***Able Seamen***—the most experienced including helmsmen experienced in steering and taking 2-hour shifts at the wheel.

- ***Ordinary Seamen***—those with less experience.

- ***Land(s)men***—the inexperienced recruits who trimmed the braces from the waist (waisters) or from the quarter-deck (afterguard).

- ***Ship's boys***—aged 12-16, usually paupers and orphans, were at the bottom of the hierarchy and had all the menial jobs. Pauper boys could be apprenticed as young as seven to the navy and other sea service.

The description of a rating is further complicated by the fact that after 1853 he could have a navy rank, which was the highest type of position which he could hold, but actually be rated on his ship by the job he actually did at the time.

Royal Navy Records

The greater the understanding of why and how the records were made, and how they are organized the more the researcher is likely to be able to learn from them about an individual ancestor. There is a huge variety of manuscript sources mainly at the Public Record Office at Kew, and open except for records containing personal information created in the last 75 years for which the confidentiality rule applies. Not a lot has been microfilmed yet but I indicate a few of these throughout the text; the FHLC listing for Great Britain contains more than that for England but both should be checked.

As the naval records are rather complex one should consult a good guide if you are going to do it yourself, or employ a researcher who is very familiar with them. The essential reference from the PRO is Rodger's *Naval Records for Genealogists*, whilst Hattendorf covers many British repositories.

In order to carry out a successful search for any sailor in the complex navy records first carry out a thorough investigation of home sources to ascertain these facts. Assembling them before you start will make the job far easier.

- The man's full name and dates and places (or estimates) of birth and death.

- Was he in the Royal Navy or part of the Merchant Service, or perhaps a Marine? Family stories will

likely guide you; if he was in the RN then a battle or medal may be mentioned.

- The name of a ship he was associated with and a date. You can find out whether this was a navy or merchant ship.

- Was he likely to have been an officer or an ordinary seaman? If an officer, what kind—commissioned or warrant?

- Did he complete his service before 1853 when centralized records started ?

- Did he serve during any time of war?

- Where was he living just prior to joining the navy? The major Royal Navy ports, for example Portsmouth and Chatham, were in the south and south-east of England. Consult a map and estimate where he may have joined or been pressed into service.

Civil Records

Civil Registration of vital events taking place at sea from 1837, (but mainly from 1851), including WWI and WWII War Deaths, were registered by the General Register Office, see Charts 56, 57 and 58 and the guidance given by PRO leaflets D61 (Births, Marriages & Deaths at Sea) and M13 (War Dead: First and Second World War).

Chart 56: Maritime Birth Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1965	6137331-47 (63)
Births at Sea/Marine Births + Informal certificates	1837-1965 1839-1867	6137268-322 (56) 6137267 (1)
Service Departments Registers [Army, Navy, Air Force]	1956-1965	

Chart 57: Maritime Marriage Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1955	6137414-28 (39)
Service Departments Registers [Army, Navy, Air Force]	1956-1965	6137429-30 (10)

Chart 58: Maritime Death Indexes

Type	Dates	GSU Fiche #
Army [Navy, Air Force] Returns	1881-1956	6137110-26 (21)
Deaths at Sea/Marine Deaths	1837-1965 (not 1880)	6137189-266 (160)
Naval War Deaths	1914-1921	6137182 (12)
Naval War Deaths-Officers	1939-1948	6137186 (7)
Naval War Deaths-Ratings	1939-1948	6137185 (14)

Census Records

Sailors are rarely at home on census night, but when they are any mention of R.N. will alert you to their service in the Royal Navy; the most likely to be found on land are the inactive ones, for example *Pensioner RN* or *RN Half Pay*. Naval institutions such as schools and hospitals were enumerated of-course and will be found in their relevant district.

Many captains filled out returns for their ships from 1841, and from 1861 members of the Royal Navy (and passengers spending the night on board ship) anywhere in the world were recorded, as were merchant seamen and passengers on ships in British harbours. The returns for ships in British waters are found at the end of the household returns for the registration district in which their next port lay. Those for the Royal Navy in foreign waters will be found at the end (highest numbers) of the record class, but as these are rarely their hometowns they are difficult to find without union indexes. If your sailor of any rank was active in 1861 or 1881 there are two invaluable union indexes:

- A complete index of 120,000 people on ships on the night of 7 April 1861 is on fiche set 6025598 (8) with a companion fiche showing the ships enumerated on 6025599 (1).

- The 1881 surname index for England & Wales has a separate Royal Navy section, which of-course includes R.N. sailors from Scotland and Ireland as well. These can be particularly useful sources for the Irish whose censuses are now missing.

Church Records

Sailors tended to marry and have their children christened in port towns, and the registers of areas of Portsmouth (including Portsea, Landport, Alverstoke and Gosport), and of Plymouth (including East Stonehouse and Stoke Damerel) were huge. It is worth checking the original entries of marriage, christening and infant burial, and not just an index or a transcript, as the sailor's ship was usually noted in at least some of them. The Hampshire Genealogical Society had special editions of its journal devoted to the port cities of Southampton (May 1999) and Portsmouth (Nov 1999) which make excellent background reading. A kind of record which should not be overlooked is plaques and monuments in churches commemorating naval and other shipping disasters involving local men.

Naval Records

There are few records prior to the Civil War, but from the time of Restoration in 1660 there is an abundance of records still in existence which shed a great deal of light on seamen's lives, including such details as what they looked like, what ships or shore bases they served on, where they went, promotions and punishments, and even what they ate! Most navy records were administered by the Admiralty and are thus in ADM classes, but some concerning wages come under the Paymaster General (PMG).

In a similar manner to the army, the records of commissioned officers, warrant officers and ratings are different in type and organization.

Records of Royal Navy Commissioned Officers

Commissioned Officers were also referred to as *Sea, Fighting*, or *Executive Officers*. Chart 59 lists the main available records in date order and brief notes follow; consult Rodger for a more extensive survey.

Chart 59:
Royal Navy Commissioned Officers Records

Record	Dates Covered	Class Numbers
Log Books	1668 onwards	ADM 53
Full and half pay registers	1668-1923	ADM 22-25, PMG 15
Royal Bounty	1672-1822	ADM 16, ADM 106
Succession Books	1673-1847	ADM 6, ADM 7, ADM 11, ADM 106, ADM 76
Passing certificates	1691-1902	ADM 6, ADM 13, ADM 107
Service records	1756-1966	ADM 196
Black books (misconduct)	1759-1815	ADM 12, ADM 11
Navy Lists of various types & biographies	1782 onwards	Libraries WWI & WWII lists in ADM 177
Leave books	1783-1847	ADM 6
Compassionate Fund	1809-1926	ADM 22-23, PMG 18
Survey Returns	1817-1851	ADM 9, ADM 6, ADM 11
Widows Claims for Back Pay	1830-1860	ADM 45
Widows Pensions	1836-1929	PMG 19
Medal recommendations	1854-1960	ADM 1, ADM 116, ADM 171
Exam results	1876-1957	ADM 203
Post WWI records	1923-1939	Anyone can apply to Min of Defence, CS(R)2e
WWII onwards	1939 to date	Next of kin can apply to HMS Centurion

Annual Lists

The best place to start looking for an officer is in one of the several annual lists that record their names, rank, ship and date of commission, examples being:

- *Navy List*, which started as *Steel's Navy List* in 1782, names all commissioned officers including masters, pursers, surgeons, chaplains, yard officers, coast guardsmen and reservists. A copy of the 1795 list is on film 0496423 (item 2) and the volumes from 1851 to 1935 are on 18 films starting at 0918928, whilst fiche copies of 1821, 1851 and 1920 can be purchased from M.M. Publications.
- *Whitaker's Naval & Military Directory and Indian Army List* is available on film 1656909 and lists both officers and ships (Chart 60.)

Chart 60: Whitaker's Naval & Military Directory & Indian Army List 1899

Officers Listings

	Name & Rank	Ship, Where Stationed, Date of Reaching this Rank, Honours
RN	DARLEY, Assistant Engineer. Herbert I.	Caesar (Medit.) a.e.'97
RN	DART, Chief Engineer Frederick H.	President (West India Docks) c.e. '95
RN	DARWALL, Capt. Wm. E. ret.	c.'93. W. AFRICA '69, ASHANTEE '73-4, O [medal], SOUDAN '84, desp., O [medal] * [bronze star], SUAKIN '85! [clasp]
RN	DAVEY, Mid, Charles H.	Cleopatra (Training Squadron), m. '95.

Ships Listings

WILDFIRE (1887) 9 kts, *Screw Special Service Vessel*. 453 t.

I.H.P. 360 N.D. Flag Ship, Sheerness.
RECOMMD. AT SHEERNESS 1 April '98

Vice Admiral, Sir Charles F. Hotham, KCB
Flag Lieut., Walter C. Chaytor
Secretary, William M.B.C. White
Clerks to Sec., C.S. Wonham, F.G. Motton, H.S. Measham
Staff Com. In Command., E.W.G. Hilliard

Borne as Additional

Captain, William F.S. Mann, ADC (RN Barracks and Flag Captain)
Commander, William B. May (RN Barracks)
Lieutenants, (G) W.H. Boys; (G) H.Christian; (G) W.H.C.S. Thring; (G) W. Mellor; (G) F. Wray
Staff Com.,
Cap. R.M., David A. Hailes
Lieut. R.M., Nowel F.E.G. Sampson-Way
Chaplain, Rev. John H. Berry MA
Fleet Surgeon, Christopher Pearson MA, MD
Staff Paym., Robert M. Pearson
Surgeons, H.B. Marriott, J.C. Durston, A.C. Bean ("Triton'), S.H. Facey, J.G. Watt
Assist. Paym., Alfred H. Veitch
Chief Gunner, Christopher H. Deighton
Gunners, W. Simpson, G.E. Leal, G.W. Curle, C. Higgins, G.R. Cooper, T. Freeman, W.A. Price, P.J. O'Connor, A.J. Raven, L. Talbot
Boatswain, (S) Joseph Porch
Clerk, James B. Evens

Additional for various services

Commander, (N) Francis J. Barr (Chart Office, Sheerness)
Gunner, Thomas R. Hammond

→ Continued on the next page

For Sheerness Dockyard

Captain, Andrew K. Bickford CMG, ADC (Superintendent of the yard)
Surgeon, George Hewitt MB
Engineer, William H. Beckett

For Dockyard Reserve, Sheerness

Commander, Gerald C.A. Marescaux
Fleet Eng., Elijah Thomas
Chief Gunner, George R. Bennett
Chief Boatswain, Alfred Payne
Carpenter, Nathaniel N. Blake

For Steam Reserve

Insp. of Mach.,George H. Weeks
Engineer, Percy Wheater

- *Index to Commission and Warrant Books* covers the period 1695-1742 giving dates of commissions and references to further sources at the Public Record Office.

Many other such lists may be found in the FHLC under GREAT BRITAIN - MILITARY RECORDS - NAVY as well as BIOGRAPHY and OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES, for example *Admiralty Officials* 1660-1870 as book 942 N2o v.4

There are several printed biographies of naval officers:

- *Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy 1660-1815* by Syrett & Dinardo is on two films, Vols I and II on 0908026, III on 0908027.

- *Marshall's Naval Biography* 1760-1823.

- Charnock's *Biographica Navalis* 1660-1794.

- *British Naval Officers* is a manuscript of 80 high ranking naval officers of the 1720-1820 period on film 0990317 item 6.
- *O'Byrne's Naval Biographical Dictionary* based on the 1845 Navy List of all 5,000 living officers is on film 0845144 or fiche 6091076 (15), see Chart 61. A fiche reprint is also available from M.M. Publications.

Chart 61: O'Byrnes Naval Biography
DASHWOOD. (Captain, in 1818. F-P., 15; H-P., 33)

WILLIAM BATEMAN DASHWOOD WAS BORN 1 Sep 1790.
This officer entered the Navy 3 Aug 1799 as Fst.-cl. Vol., on board the DEFIANCE 74, Caps Thos Revell Shivers and Rich. Retallick, flag-ship afterwards of rear-Admiral Thos Graves, under whom he served at the battle of Copenhagen 2 April 1801. On 22 June 1802 he became Midshipman of the ISIS 50, bearing the flag in succession of the late Lord Gambier, of Sir Edw Thornbrough, and of Sir Erasmus Gower, at Newfoundland, where he continued until Feb 1805; after which he joined, consecutively, the POMONE 44, Capt W, Grenville Lobb, off Lisbon, CAPTAIN 74, Capt Geo Cockburn, at Spithead, and MODESTE 36, Capt Geo Elliott. On 15 Aug 1807, being then in the East Indies, Mr. Dashwood was appointed Acting-Lieutenant of the CULLODEN 74, flag-ship of Sir Edw Pellew, from which we find him officially promoted, 28 Jan 1808, into his former ship, the MODESTE. Invaliding home in July 1809 he next, on 12 June 1810, joined the ATLAS 74, Capt Jas Sanders, and was for some time employed in the gun-boat service at the siege of Cadiz. Prior to his appointment, as First-Lieutenant, to the ACTIVE of 46 guns, Capt Jas Alex Gordon, which took place in Oct 1811, Mr Dashwood further served for a few months with Capt Clephane, on board the CUMBERLAND and AJAZ 74's.

→ Continued on the next page

On 29 Nov in the latter year, he shared in a hard-fought action of an hour and forty minutes, which, in rendering the ACTIVE captor of *La Pomone*, of 44 guns and 332 men, 50 of whom were killed and wounded, cost her a loss of 8 killed and 27 wounded; and on that occasion he had the misfortune to have his right arm shot off, a few minutes after the disablement of Capt Gordon, who lost a leg. Being promoted to the rank of commander 19 May 1812, and appointed, 23 July 1813, to the SNAP 16, Capt Dashwood now cruized off the coast of France, where on 1 Nov, he fell in with five privateer luggers, one of which, *Le Lion*, of 16 guns and 69 men, he brought to close action, and in ten minutes captured. On 15 Nov 1814, he removed to the PROMETHEUS sloop, and after hovering about the Bay of Biscay for some time in the summer of 1815, with a view to the interception of Napoleon Buonaparte, sailed for the Mediterranean; on which station he assisted at the bombardment of Algiers 27 Aug 1816. Previously to that event he had succeeded in brining away, disguised as midshipmen, the wife and daughter of the British Consul, Mr M'Donell. Capt Dashwood, who paid the PROMETHEUS off in Nov 1816, was subsequently appointed to the Acting command, 23 July 1818 of the CREOLE 36, fitting for South America, where he attained Post-rank, 21 Oct following, in the AMPHION 32. He went on half-pay in May 1819; and accepted the Retirement 1 Oct 1846.

Capt Dashwood is Senior of 1818. In consideration of his wound he enjoys a pension of 200*l*. He married, 17 April 1820, Louisa Henrietta, only daughter of Fred. Bode Esq. by whom he has issue.

AGENTS—Hallett and Robinson.

Lieutenants Passing Certificates

The Admiralty started examinations in 1677 for those wishing to start as a lieutenant, the lowest rung of the officer's career ladder. Standards were raised gradually over time, and the young man had to:

- Be over 21 years of age, with proof in the form of a baptism entry.
- Have served at sea for at least six years.
- Show he possessed the requisite seamanship skills.
- Produce his own journals.
- Produce certificates of his diligence and sobriety from his Captains.

Passing Certificates for Lieutenants 1691-1832 are found in ADM 107, ADM 6, ADM 13, and ADM 1 to which there is an index at the PRO. Similar examinations were set for warrant officers and their passing certificates 1660-1899 are in classes ADM 6, ADM 13, ADM 106 and ADM 11. These papers may contain his baptismal certificate, and will certainly summarize his previous training and career. Chart 62 shows my 5th great grandfather Joseph Dashwood's Lieutenant's Passing Certificate from ADM 107.

Chart 62: Lieutenant's Passing Certificate

In pursuance of the 30th June 1746 we have examined Joseph Dashwood who appears to be more than 28 yrs of age and find that he gone to sea more than 6 yrs in the ships:

SHIP	QUALITY	TIME
Kent	Able Seaman	3 years 10 months 3 weeks 5 days
Kent	Midshipman	7 months 2 weeks
Colchester	Midshipman	1 month 1 week 4 days
Ipswich	Midshipman	7 months 0 week 5 days
Ipswich	Master's Mate	1 year 1 month 1 week 4 days

He produceth no journals, they being dispenced with by order from the Lords of the Admiralty in regard the same were lost when he was cast away in the Colchester, and Certificates from Captains Fowke, Broderick, & Leslie of his diligence. He can splice, knot, reef and sail and is qualified to do the duty of an Able Seaman and a Midshipman.

Dated 29 July 1746

R.H. J.C. Cn Ryeaux

One can then proceed to the muster rolls of each ship on which he served to find further details. In this case, romantic notions of being cast away on a tropical island were dashed when I investigated the demise of the Colchester at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. The ship foundered on a sand bar in the Thames estuary!

Finding distant cousins may pay off for you and future generations of researchers. One of my third cousins had Joseph Dashwood's *Book of Regulations for Service at Sea*, known colloquially as the *Fighting Instructions*.

He signed and dated it 7 August 1746, shortly after he passed his Lieutenants Examination, and the day he joined his new ship, The *Prince George*, as shown in its muster. The book was an earlier edition than currently held by either the PRO or the National Maritime Museum, so when my bookbinder brother stripped it for rebinding he made copies and donated one to each archive. The National Maritime Museum was able to supply a photograph of a painting of the *Prince George*.

It seems that a large number of the crew of this ship were sent to serve on the *Lyon* during its service the next year at the Second Battle of Cape Finisterre in the Bay of Biscay during the War of the Austrian Succession.

The men were still carried on the muster for the Prince George, and following through this it wasn't long before Joseph received the notation *DD (Discharged Dead)* on 14 Oct 1747. *Jos^{h} Dashwood 6 Lt. Slain in a fight on board His Maj. Ship the Lyon, and Ticket [for pay] to be delivered to the N.O. [Navy Office.]*

A description of the battle can be found in regular military texts. My third cousin also had two small pieces of sailcloth, one of which had the date 14 Oct 1747 written in black ink on it; the other was given to me. It seems reasonable to conjecture that these were pieces of his shroud given to his wife and lovingly passed down for 250 years.

The shroud for burial at sea was typically made from the sailor's own hammock, and sewn up by the sail maker on board, the last stitch going through the nose!

The tour guides on *HMS Victory* at Portsmouth indicate that the process of sewing up the hammock/shroud and piercing the nose was to prevent sailors feigning death in order to be released from the harsh navy routine. Dashwood's early death explains why he only had two children and why his wife was a widow at the christening of the second.

Commissioned Officers' Service Registers

These detailed records of officers' careers are reasonably complete from 1840-1920 and there are different types of register with variable amounts of data. Generally they give the dates and places of births and deaths, dates and places of marriages with maiden names of brides, rank (quality), and names of ships on which each officer served.

Indexes exist but are not perfect and not everyone will be found easily, as it is a mixed bag of registers but other sources do exist, for example ADM 104 for medical officers, thus persistence is rewarded. PRO leaflets M30 and M79 should be consulted.

Survey Returns (Commissioned Officers)
After the Napoleonic Wars the navy was reduced from 145,000 to 19,000 men. In order to retain the best officers and men, and to improve record keeping, surveys of commissioned and warrant officers were made in 1817, 1828 and 1846. Not everyone received, or returned, one and they are only partly indexed but it is worth checking for them as they give dates of birth and are full of career information. Those for commissioned officers are in ADM 9 with indexes in ADM 10, and further ones are in ADM 6, ADM 11, and ADM 106.

Succession Books (Commissioned Officers)
One can trace commissioned officers by means of the indexes to the books kept by each ship noting the succession of officers appointed to it.

Commissioned Officers' Pay Registers
Records of full pay only give the man's name and salary paid, but they show when he was active. From 1795 to 1830 they are separate by rank, and after 1830 all together. Half pay was used as a retainer between spells of duty and as a kind of pension, and is particularly useful in giving the recipient's address.

Captain's Log Books 1669-1852 are in ADM 51, and there are many *Lieutenants' Logs* at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

Naval Officers' Marriage Certificates & Letters 1806-1902 (ADM 13) are on 12 films starting on 1818342.

Records of Warrant Officers

The status of the warrant officer improved steadily over the years with masters, pursers, surgeons and engineers achieving commissioned rank during the first half of the 19th century. More and more specialized junior warrant officer branches evolved until there were 24 types in 1945. A summary of the main available records in date order appears in chart 63; some of these are the same as for commissioned officers whilst others are the same as for ratings. As some of the records are kept for each specialist branch it pays to find out what type of warrant officer he was. Rodger has details of the many records and indexes available.

Warrant Officers' Passing Certificates

These certificates give a summary of the officer's service and training, and some have birth or baptism certificates in proof of age. Engineers are listed separately.

Chart 63: Royal Navy Records for Warrant Officers

Record	Dates Covered	Class Numbers
Records of the Chatham Chest	1653-1797	ADM 82, ADM 80
Log Books	1668 onwards	ADM 53
Full and half pay registers	1668-1923	ADM 22-25, PMG 15
Royal Bounty	1672-1822	ADM 16, ADM 106
Succession Books	1673-1847	ADM 6, ADM 7, ADM 11, ADM 106, ADM 76
Passing certificates	1691-1902	ADM 6, ADM 13, ADM 107
Royal Hospital Greenwich & associated schools	1694 onwards	ADM 73, ADM 6, RG 4, RG 8, ADM 22-23, ADM 162-164
Black books (misconduct)	1741-1815	ADM 12, ADM 11
Service records	1756-1966	ADM 196
Pilots passing certificates and pay books	1759-1770 1793-1807	ADM 30
Some Navy Lists of various types & biographies	1782 onwards	Libraries
Leave books	1783-1847	ADM 6
Certificates of Service	1802-1894	ADM 29, ADM 73
Compassionate Fund	1809-1926	ADM 22-23, PMG 18
Survey Returns	1817-51	ADM 9, ADM 6, ADM 11
Widows Claims for Back Pay	1830-1860	ADM 45
Widows Pensions	1836-1929	PMG 19
Medal recommendations	1854-1960s	ADM 1, ADM 116, ADM 171
Exam results	1876-1957	ADM 203
Post WWI records	1923-1939	Anyone can apply to Min of Defence, CS(R)2e
WWII onwards	1939 to date	Next of kin can apply to HMS Centurion

Warrant Officers' Service Registers
These detailed records of officers' careers are reasonably complete from 1840-1920 and there are different types of register with variable amounts of data. Generally they give the dates and places of births and deaths, dates and places of marriages with maiden names of brides, and names of ships on which each officer served. Indexes exist but are not perfect and not everyone will be found easily, as it is a mixed bag of registers but other sources do exist, for example ADM 29 and ADM 73 for those discharged to pension, thus persistence is rewarded.

Survey Returns, Succession Books & Pay Registers (Warrant Officers)
These are the same as those described under Commissioned Officers above.

Some Other Warrant Officers' Records
Register of Surgeon's Appointments to ships 1851-1891 Colonial Office (CO 386/186-187) on film 148338* (see Preface). Surgeons 1774-1886 are recorded in ADM 104, ADM 11 and ADM 106 and there are some *Surgeons' Journals* in ADM 101.

Masters Qualifications 1660-1830 in ADM 106, and their Passing Certificates 1851-1863 in ADM 13 both include certificates of baptism. *Masters Log Books* 1672-1840 in ADM 52 contain much biographical detail if you are lucky to find relevant ones that have survived.

Clerks' Passing Certificates can be found in ADM 13.

Records of Royal Navy Ratings

A summary of the main available records in date order is in Chart 64; consult Rodger for a more extensive survey. For an exciting account of a search for an ordinary sailor from family legend to facts read Baskett.

Chart 64: Royal Navy Records for Ratings

Record	Dates Covered	Class Numbers
Records of the Chatham Chest	1653-1797	ADM 82, ADM 80
Ships' muster books	1667-1923	ADM 36-39, ADM 41, ADM 115, ADM 119
Log Books	1668 onwards	ADM 53
Royal Bounty	1672-1822	ADM 16, ADM 106
Pay books	1691-1856	ADM 31-35
Royal Hospital Greenwich & associated schools	1694 onwards	ADM 73, ADM 6, RG 4, RG 8, ADM 22-23, ADM 162-164
Certificates of Service	1802-1894	ADM 29, ADM 73
Continuous Service Engagement books	1853-72	ADM 139
Medal recommendations	1854-1960s	ADM 1, ADM 116, ADM 171
Register of Seamen's Services	1873-1923	ADM 188
Post WWI records	1923-1939	Anyone can apply to Min of Defence, CS(R)2e
WWII onwards	1939 to date	Next of kin can apply to HMS Centurion

Continuous Service Engagement Books 1853-1872 and Registers of Seamen's Services 1872-1923

From 1853 new recruits, and others who transferred to the new system, were issued unique *continuous service numbers*. Thus for those whose service started after 1853 or extended past this date this is the easiest place to start the search. *Continuous Service Engagement Books* are in ADM 139 and the *Register of Seamen's Services* in ADM 188. There are 923 films, starting at 0943592, comprising indexes for 1853-1872 and the records starting at 0917241 from 1853 to 1896. When using the indexes be aware that there are three series, 1st with plain numbers, 2nd (numbers prefixed A) and 3rd (numbers prefixed B). The records include each sailor's date and place of birth, physical description and outline of service including ships served on.

Once you have the name of a ship, then you can work backwards and forwards from that date from the Muster Rolls. For Ratings serving only before 1853 it is more difficult to find which ships they have served on, but this information may have been passed down in the family orally or by means of photos or other artefacts. Further details can be found in the PRO leaflets: M31 Royal Navy: Ratings Service records 1667-1923, and M34 Royal Navy: Ratings Entering Service between 1873 and 1923.

Ships' Musters

Each ship's company was listed and from 1764 give the name of the sailor, age on boarding, place of birth, and whether pressed into service (Chart 65). Complex columns record his service together with pay and deductions for food and services on board until a pay period, usually three or six months or a year, ended. Once a ship's name and a date are known then one can work backwards and forwards from that point, with transfers to and from other ships being noted in the records. However, men came and went from ships in several different ways:

- Turned over to another ship.
- Lent for a period to another ship but may be kept on payroll of his regular one.
- Left behind on land if sick.
- Deserted, indicated by R (Run).
- Plenty of men died in this hazardous occupation and would then have the notation DD in the muster, meaning Discharged Dead.
- Discharged (D) on land. When his money ran out he typically found work at the same port but not always on the same ship. He may have been employed by:
  - The same captain on another ship.
  - Another ship at the same port.

Search the *Naval List Books* to find what other ships were in port at that time.

Sadly, almost all ship muster records created between 1878 and 1919 were destroyed during WWI. Two series of Admiralty Muster Books are on film so far:

- ADM 36 on 45 films starting at 2206076.
- ADM 37 on 12 films starting at 2206121.

There is increased collaboration between the PRO and the GSU at present so we can expect more coming through the pipeline.

CHART 65: Extract from Ship's Muster Roll of the Victory (1805) Vertical columns have been converted into rows to fit the space available here, and ditto marks changed into data.

Column Heading	Individual Information				
Bounty paid [to volunteers]	1	—	—	—	—
Number	61	61	61	61	5
Entry [date]	10 May	10 May	18 March	18 March	18 March
Year	1803	1803	1803	1803	1803
Appearance	10 May	10 May	11 May	11 May	11 May
Whence & whether prest	Volunteered	Prest	HMS Utrecht Volunteered	HMS Utrecht Volunteered	HMS Utrecht Volunteered
Place & county where born	Stratford	London	Holland	London	London
Age at time of entry in this ship	22	20	23	26	27
No. & letter of tickets	—	—	—	KC 259	—
MEN'S NAMES	David Conn	Jos Button (1)	John Recain	Steph[n] Lennard	Jn° Edmund alias Kenman
Qualities	LM (landman)	LM	LM	AB(Able Bodied Seaman)	Ordy (Ordinary Seaman)
D., D.D., or R. [Discharged, Discharged Dead or Run]	—	R	—	D	—
Time discharged	—	14 Jan	—	17 April	—
Year	—	1805	—	1804	—

→ Continued from the last page					
Whither & for what reason	—	Gibraltar	—	HM Brig Cameleon from Order of Lord Kemp ..[date]	—
Straggling or neglect [fines]	—	—	—	—	—
Slop cloaths supplied by Navy	4.14.11	0.5.0	3.9.6	3.18.7	5.1.3
Cloaths in sick quarters	—	—	—	—	—
Beds	16/-	13/-	13/-	13/-	—
Dead men's cloaths [price paid for a dead sailor's clothes & effects to benefit his widow]	—	—	—	—	—
Tobacco	19/-	—	1.0.7	19/-	1.3.9
Date of the parties order for allotting monthly pay	—	—	—	—	—
Wages remitted from abroad	—	—	—	—	—
Two months advance [allowed to volunteers]	2.2.0	—	—	1.4.6	2(?).2.0
Necessaries supplied Marines on shore	—	—	—	—	—
To whom the tickets were delivered	—	—	—	—	—
When mustered					
Aug 4	n	n	n	n	n
Aug 11	o	o	o	o	o
Aug 21	a	a	a	a	a
Aug 29	b	b	b	b	b

Ships' Pay Books
Pay books were kept separately from the musters and recorded the payment of wages. A little more information may be available than in the musters themselves, and from 1765 there are indexes called *alphabets*. A full set of these for one man gives a good record of his career.

Description Books
Some musters include physical descriptions of the men from about 1800, kept in order to identify deserters and the dead.

Certificates of Service
From 1802 synopses of each seaman's career started to be compiled from the ships' pay books by the Navy Pay Office. There are few for ratings before 1834 and were used to support applications for:

- Pensions.
- Medals and gratuities.
- Greenwich Hospital admissions.
- Greenwich Hospital School admissions for his children.

Details can include:

- Full name
- When and where born.
- Description—height, complexion, hair and eye colour, marks.
- Current ship, and date of entry and rating on it.

- Date of volunteering for Continuous Service (from 1853), for how long, and his register ticket number.
- Date of badges.
- Date of certificates, or class as seamen gunner.
- Former service - ships' names and dates and whether Royal Navy or Merchant Service.

Records Useful for all Sailors

Ship's Logs

Your ancestor's part in history can really come alive through reading the ships' log books for when he served. They were kept by captains, masters and lieutenants and survive from around 1688, but not for all dates for all ships, naturally. The ship's log gives an account of where it sailed, wind and weather, and daily life on board.

The muster for the Bellerophon and its part in transporting Napoleon to exile is described in this book. The ship's log for the summer of 1815 for HMS Bellerophon is an historic document. The ship was returning English prisoners to Dartmouth, Devon after the final defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. Charts 66 and 67 show portions of the ship's log whilst at sea in July and August 1815.

Chart 66: Extract from HMS Bellerophon Ship's Log 15 July 1815

AM. Winds NE. Fresh breezes and cloudy 4 D.W.
Guard Boats returned. Observed a French Brig & Schooner coming out with Flags of Truce, answered Ditto. At 6 sent boats to ditto. At 7 received on board Napoleon Buonaparte (late Emperor of France) & his suite. Two strange ships in the offing.
Winds NNE. 8 D.W. lowered the topsail yards down. 10.30 anchored, HM ship Superb, bearing the Flag of Rear Admiral Sir H. Hotham. Employed getting luggage etc on board belonging to Napoleon Buonaparte. Winds NNW. Noon mod^te & fine. Superb, Myrmidon & French Brig at Anchor in C°.
Water exp^d 2 ½ tons - rem^s 178 tons.
Bearings & Distance at noon At Single Anchor off Rochelle.
PM. Winds NNW. Fresh breeze % hazy weather at 3 Myrmidor weighed - 4D.W. Myrmidor beating out of the Roads.
5.55 up Boat- parted C° the French Brig.
6 Winds NW by N. Fresh breezes & cloudy. Superb in C°. 7.40 up boats.
8 moderate breezes & cloudy W.
Winds NNW. Midnight Mod^te & fine

Chart 67: Extract from HMS Bellerophon Ship's Log 7 August 1815

AM. Moderate breezes and cloudy W^r
4. Light breezes and fine.
8 Ditto W^r At 10 Admiral Sir George Cockburn came on board. Employed getting Napoleon Buonaparte's Luggage up and sending it on Board the Northumberland.
Noon Ditto W^r Remains of water 45 tons.
Bearings & distance at noon. At anchor off Bury Head.
PM. Light breezes and fine W^r At 2 Admiral Lord Keith left the Ship. Delivered Napoleon Buonaparte and Suite to HMS Northumberland. Ans^d Seg as P.. Column ..15. Weiged [sic] and made Sail. Admiral & Squadron in C^o.
8 Moderate breezes and Hazey [sic] with small rain Froward Point.....

Navy Pensioners and Sailors' Widows & Orphans

Officers received half-pay entitlement and pensions were provided for only a fixed number of warrant officers (from 1672), lieutenants (from 1737) and admirals (from 1747). Widows of officers who died in action received pensions from 1673. Pensions for widows of naval officers 1800-1818 (ADM 30) are on film 1818354. Widows of all officers could receive pensions from 1836 (see PRO leaflet M60), but pensions for ratings weren't introduced until 1853 for those having 20 years' service. Unfortunately very few of these records survive; refer to PRO leaflets M61 and M62.

Before 1853 some pensions were available to those who were wounded, gave outstanding service in battle, or received a medal. It was recognized very early on that sailing was a particularly hazardous occupation and various schemes and charities were instituted to provide for maimed and destitute sailors, as well as for their children, widows and orphans. Only a small minority of those who were in need actually received aid, but the records are wonderfully detailed. The most easy to find include:

Chatham Chest

A huge, ancient oak chest with an opening at the top sits in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and from 1590 it stored the Chatham Chest charity payments. Sixpence was deducted from every Royal Navy seaman's pay and the accumulation provided funds for some of the most deserving cases. Warrant officers' families seem to have benefitted most before 1834, but those of ratings received more help after this date. The records include:

- Account books 1653-1657.
- Registers of payments to pensioners 1675-1799 with annual alphabetical lists.
- Pension Indexes 1744-1797 give the names of the ships that the seamen served on.

It is possible that the phrase on the chat may be derived from this type of handout, just as the phrase on the dole originated when paupers stood in line to have their relief money doled out by local monks or charity officials (Burns).

Trinity House Petitions

The ancient Corporation of Trinity House had three functions:

- It was responsible for matters relating to safety at sea, for example provision of lighthouses, lightships, buoys and beacons around Great Britain & Ireland and off Gibraltar.
- Licensing of pilots for the Thames and later 40 outport districts around the country.
- The organization of charity for mariners and their dependents throughout the UK. They ran almshouses at Mile End and Deptford in east London, and gave relief to out-pensioners, typically poor disabled seamen and their widows and orphans.

Its Charter of Incorporation in 1514 granted it authority for distributing charitable funds from many benefactors including *light dues* levied on ships using ports.

By 1815 they supported 144 mariners (or their dependants) in their almshouses and over 7,000 out-pensioners. The Guildhall Library has records of payments to almspeople and out-pensioners from 1729 giving names, ages and reason for assistance (Herber), and they produce helpful leaflets (see address in Appendix). Almshouse applications and supporting documents from 1780-1880 can be found on films 0950869 70, and 2106686. Trinity House minutes and many lists of people are on 24 films starting at 1966898 -you're almost sure to find someone here!

Trinity House took great care to see that only those truly destitute and genuine were assisted, and required the applicant to answer a *Petition*, consisting of a long list of questions as to their circumstances and eligibility. Owing to fires at Trinity House in London in 1666, 1714 and 1940 much has been lost, but the complete group of Petitions from 1787 to 1854 survive at the Guildhall Library, and the Society of Genealogists in London have produced an index (Camp 1987), which is not on film yet. A Request for Photocopies would need to include the page with the name from the general index as well as a copy of the entry page; the 2nd series begins on page 223. The petitions are available on film as follows:

- 1st Series of 102 vols on 57 films starting at 0395554.
- 2nd Series of 11 vols on 6 films starting at 0950871.

The index gives the following information about my 4th great grandparents:

TOPPING, Ann, 61, wid of Timothy, of Erith, Kent, 1842.

The Petition itself consists of three pages and a cover/address sheet and is transcribed in Chart 68.

Chart 68: Trinity House Petition for Ann Topping 1842 (Film 0395603)

No *2093E* Widow's Form received on *6 Sep 1842*, annotated *5269B*. Recommended by Capt. D Warren.
The Humble Petition of *Ann Topping* aged *61 years* residing at *Erith in the County of Kent* Widow of *Timothy Topping* showeth That your Petitioner's Husband went to Sea at the Age of *14* in the Year *1796* and was employed in the Merchant Sea Service for *upwards of* 30 Years in the following Ships and others, and in the annexed Stations:

Year	Ship	Tons	Station	Places
1796	*United Kingdom*	*1200*	*Midshipman*	*London to China*
	Company's Ship	*1400*	"	"
	Dover Castle	"	*4th Mate*	*London to Bengal*
	Alnwick Castle	"	*3rd Mate*	"
	Beaver	*250*	*Captain*	*Lisbon & Madeira*
	Telemachus	*100*	"	*London to Dublin*
	Charming Molly	"	"	"
	Charming Kitty	"	"	"

That your Petitioner's Husband left off the Sea in the Year *1825* in consequence of *Ill Health* and died on Dec-1841 and she has -Children, viz. - Boys under 12 Years of Age, and - Girls under 14 Years of Age, viz.-
That your Petitioner has no Annual Income from Real or Personal Property to the Amount of £---
That your Petitioner's Means of Support are from nothing *but her own industry & this when she is well. Cannot frequently find employment, and her children are quite incapable of assisting her*, which not being sufficient to support herself she most humbly prays that she may be admitted to the Pension of the Corporation.Signed *Ann Topping*

→ Continued on the next page

CERTIFICATE to be signed by Owner of Vessel in which Petitioner's Husband served in his highest station...
These are to certify to the Honorable Corporation of Trinity House That *Timothy Topping* the husband of the within-named petitioner served on board the ship *Beaver* of 250 Tons *of which he* was Master, of which *Mr. Yems was* Owner, in the Capacity of *Captain* on her Voyage from *Lisbon* to *Madeira* in the Year 1808.
And that the Petitioner to the best of my Knowledge and Belief, is in distressed Circumstances; and being a Person of good Character and Reputation, I do recommend her as a proper Object of the Corporation's Charity; and am ready to make Declaration to the truth of this Certificate whenever required to do so. As Witness my hand, the *11th* day of July 1842.

Signed by G. Heath, [see next page, in lieu of deceased]

Owner of the Ship Beaver in which the
Petitioner's Husband served as a *Captain*.

N.B. Besides the above, and following Certificate, a Certificate of the Widow's Marriage and of her Age, and a Certificate of the Ages of her Children, are to be procured: which it is hoped, will be granted without expence to the Poor Woman
Continued...

CERTIFICATE to be signed by a Medical Practitioner, in cases where the Petitioner is rendered by Hurt or Infirmity, incapable of working for her livelihood.
These are to certify to the Honorable Corporation of Trinity House, That *Ann Topping* the within-named Petitioner is rendered incapable of gaining her livelihood, by labor or otherwise, in consequence of an impaired constitution.

John S. Main [?] Surgeon

→ Continued on the next page

CERTIFICATE to be signed by two respectable Persons (at least) of which one to be the Minister, or Church Warden of the Parish wherein the Petitioner resides; the other a Younger Brother [of Trinity house], or other maritime Person.
We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do actually know, and are well acquainted with, the Petitioner and her Circumstances, so that we can and do hereby vouch for the Truth of what is stated in the annexed Petition viz.- That she is the Widow of *Timothy Topping* a *Captain* of a ship, deceased:- That she resides in the Parish of Erith *in the County of Kent* where she is a *Lodger* and follows *no certain* Occupation *being dependant upon casual & infrequent opportunities of procuring the necessities of life*. That she has no children of the Ages therein set forth:- That she is a Person of good Character and Reputation, and being in indigent Circumstances, without any adequate Means for maintaining herself, do recommend her as a proper Object of the Corporation's Charity. As Witness out Hands, the ----day of ---- 1842.

Name	Quality	Residence
Richard Danes	*Vicar*	*Erith, Kent*
Robert Hughes	*Church Warden*	*Erith*
Ralph Light	*Resident*	
Charles Beadle	*Resident*	
George Heath	*Resident & Commissioner of Taxes*	

The London Trinity House was the main headquarters for the Masters & Brethren of the *Society of Masters & Mariners*, and others were in Scarborough, Hull and Newcastle (and perhaps elsewhere). The records of the Newcastle Trinity House span 6 films starting at 1545896 with a date range of 1580-1900, and include wills, apprenticeship books, enrollment of freemen, pilots licences and various charity records.

Charity for the Payment of Pensions to the Widows of Sea Officers was established in 1732 to provide pensions to needy widows of commissioned and warrant officers. It was funded partly by parliament and partly from pay deductions, and the surviving records include:

- *Pay Books* 1734-1929.
- *Application Papers* 1797-1829, which include many marriage and death certificates.
- *Applications Requiring Further Investigation* 1808-1830.

Other Charities have existed for periods of time (Watts & Watts 1991) including:

- *Marine Society* from 1757.
- *British & Foreign Bethel Seamen's Union* in London from 1819.
- *Seamen's Hospital Society* from 1821.
- *Seamen's Loyal Standard Association* on Tyneside from 1824.
- *British & Foreign Sailor's Society* from 1833.
- *Shipwrecked Fishermen & Mariner's Royal Benevolent Society* from 1839.
- *Missions to Seamen* from 1856.

Certificates & Declarations for Placing Widows of Officers of the Royal Navy on the Pension List

A fiche index to 760 entries concerning officers who died 1845-1860 from ADM 1 (Promiscuous Letters) is available from Catty (see her article 1991). It is also on GSU fiche 6344773* (see Preface).

Pensions for Disabled Sailors

At the PRO there is a sample collection of alphabetically-arranged personal files of 5,000 injured seaman and soldiers who received disability pensions prior to 1914.

The *Royal Greenwich Hospital* was set up in 1694 as a home for wounded and infirm navy pensioners, and also provided employment for seamen's widows as nurses. It was funded through sixpence pay deductions from all mariners forwarded to the delightfully titled *Receiver of Sixpences* until 1869. The many surviving records for *in-patients* include:

- *Application papers* 1737-1859.
- *Entry books* 1704-1869.
- *Admission papers* 1790-1865.
- *Hospital church registers* (mainly deaths) 1705-1864.

Out-patients were mainly ratings, but more and more officers were recipients during the 19th century. Surviving records for out-patients, of which there were a thousand in 1738 and 2,350 by 1782 living all over the British Isles and abroad, include:

- *Registers of applicants* 1789-1859.
- *Pay books* 1781-1809, and then alphabetically for 1814-1846.
- *Registers of officer recipients* 1814-1842, 1846-1921.

The *Royal Hospital School, Greenwich* was established shortly after the hospital itself to provide an education for the children of disabled or deceased Royal Naval Officers. Boys were admitted at 13 years of age, and they were rarely from commissioned officers' families. In 1798 the Royal Naval Asylum was founded in Paddington, London under the title of *British Endeavour*, to maintain and educate younger orphans and destitute children of sailors and marines. It came under royal patronage in 1806-7, transferred to the building now housing the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, and amalgamated with the Greenwich Hospital School in 1821. At this time a separate school was established for the sons of commissioned officers. Records include:

- *School admission papers* 1728-1870 are available in ADM 73, calendared (under first letter of surname) and give marriage and birth/christening information as well as father's naval service and other information. A later series (1883-1922) is in ADM 163.
- *Registers of applications* from 1728 onwards.
- *Church registers*, mainly deaths.
- *Lists of staff and servants*.

Consult Turner for more historical information.

Royal Bounty

When a navy man died in the course of his duty the *Royal Bounty*, equal to one year's wages, was payable to his mother, or widow and children, in addition to any pension received. An index to the entries from ADM 106 is on film 0824518. A transcript of an entry from the Royal Bounty List for my ancestors is shown in chart 69. The amount for a child was enough to educate or apprentice them; the boy Joseph DASHWOOD was apprenticed to the good quality trade of watch making in 1762 for the sum of £31.10.0, only slightly more than the bounty provided.

Chart 69: Royal Bounty List Bills made out for His Majesty's Bounty to the Widows, Mothers & Children of Persons Slain in Fight ADM 106

Columns	Information	
Item Number	*203*	*202*
Bill Number & Date	*374 1 June 1748*	*375 1 June 1748*
Person having a Right to the Bill in being made out in their Name	*Mrs Ann Dashwood widow of*	*Mr Jas Hirtzell* in Trust for Jos. & Ann Dashwood orphans of*
Name of the Party Killed or Slain	*Jos. Dashwood*	
Quality	*Lieut.*	
In what Ship and when Slain	*Prince George [no date]*	
Sum	*£91.5.0*	*£60.16.8*
To whom delivered	*Paul Mclares for Sir Charles LeBlon attorne. Assigned & delivered 22 May 1749 Geo Fortescue for James Hirtzell.*	

* James Hirtzell was married to Joseph Dashwood's sister Katherine and hence was widow Ann's brother-in-law.

Medal Rolls

Campaign and war medal rolls are in ADM 171, and gallantry medal rolls in ADM 1 and ADM 116, but neither seems to have been filmed.

Naval Wills

Sailors were required to make wills and many used the standard forms provided for this purpose. Robert Dashwood's will, probated 1743 in the Archdeaconry Court of Dorset, is headed with the royal coat of arms with a medal-like imprint of a head on the left inscribed GOD SAVE KING GEORGE II and the obverse on the right reading PRAY GOD PRESERVE THE FLEET and SIGILLUM OFFICIUM NAVALE (official seal of the navy) surrounding three anchors. The standard text with blanks to fill in reads in its original spelling, (but punctuation added), as in Chart 70.

Chart 70: Sailor's Will of Robert Dashwood 1743

In the Name of God Amen, I, *Robert Dashwood of His Majesty's Ship the Sandwich Marriner*", being in Bodily health and of Sound and disposing Mind and memory and considering the Perrils & Dangers of ye Seas and other uncertaintys of this Transitory Life, (Doe for avoiding controversies after my decease), make publish and declare this my Last Will and Testament in manner following,
(That is to say):
First I recommend my Soul to God that gave it and my Body I commit to the Earth or Sea as it shall please God to Order, and as for and concerning all my Worldly Estate I Give, Bequeath and Dispose thereof as followeth.
That is to say (there is a space here for any specific bequests) *All Such* Wages, Summ and Summs of Money, Lands, Tenements, Goods, Chattels and Estate whatsoever as shall be any ways due, owing or belonging unto me at the time of my Decease, I doe Give Devise and Bequeath the same unto *my loving brother Thomas Dashwood of Sturminster Newton Castle in the County of Dorset Maltster.*
And I doe hereby Nominate and Appoint the said *Thomas Dashwood Sole* Executor of this my Last Will and Testament, hereby Revokeing all former and other Wills, Testaments and Deeds of Gift by me at any time heretofore made. And I doe ordain and Ratify these presents to Stand and be for and as my Only Last Will and Testament.
In Wittness Whereof to this my said Will I have set my hand & Seal the *Twenty first* Day of *June* Anno Dom 1742. And in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George *the Second* over Great Britain Etc..

[Signed] *Robert Dashwood {Seal]*

Signed, Sealed, Publish'd and Declared in ye presence of us
Will: Barry
John Hayter

Prior to about 1750 some Royal Navy wills can be found in the Commissary Court of London, but most sailors' wills, at least before 1815, were proved at the PCC (Prerogative Court of Canterbury) since it had authority over all the wills of all seamen who had at least £20 owing in back pay. A typical entry in the PCC probate indexes for a sailor will be in the services section and include the abbreviation Pts instead of a county of residence. This means In foreign parts and indicates residence anywhere outside the British Isles, including on a ship. The index entry for William Dartnell 1761 A+W is an administration with will annexed in Pts (Service) Mar 89 PROB11/863, and indicates that he is a bachelor and belongs to HMS Chesterfield, Julian Legge Esq. Commander, but is presently loaned as Captain's Clerk on board HMS Trident in HM Navy.

Large numbers of copies of wills of officers and ratings were collected by the Admiralty in the course of processing pensions, grants and applications by their dependants for the back pay of men killed in service. These wills are particularly helpful in tracing names and residences of next of kin; and even more so when coupled with the death duty registers from 1796 - 1903 (see the author's companion text Researching English Probate Records.) Most sailors' wills can be found in ADM 142, ADM 48, and ADM 44-45. So far surnames A-C are available on 52 films of starting at 1942131 in Seamen's Effects 1757-1860 ADM 44, and Seamen's Wills 1786-1882 ADM 48 are all on 44 films starting at 1941959.

Miscellaneous Units

HEICS Navy

The East India Company operated both merchant and war ships and the British Library, Oriental & Indian Office Collections holds many records of their officers and crew as well as information about the ships and their voyages. Herber has a good summary.

Sea Fencibles

In the early years of the Napoleonic Wars fishermen and other home-based boatmen in the south of England volunteered to form units for local defence similar to the militia; many perhaps as a surety against the press and the ballot for the militia ! Records are in ADM 28 for 1798-1810 and indexes of the Sea Fencibles 1805 are being produced by Defence of the Realm Indexes. The history and action of the Sea Fencibles is described by Harding.

Dockyard workers

The English Royal Navy dockyards in Portsmouth (the earliest starting in 1496), Woolwich, Deptford, Chatham, Portsmouth, Sheerness and Plymouth employed thousands of artisans, clerks and labourers. There were also RN dockyards abroad in Gibraltar, Port Royal in Jamaica, and Halifax in Nova Scotia. Up until 1832 they were controlled by the Navy Board and after that by the Admiralty thus records are held at the PRO. Paybooks for the larger yards 1660-1857 are in class ADM 42 and paybooks and musters for smaller ones are in ADM 32, 36 and 37.

Description books for artificers 1748-1830 in ADM 106 have physical descriptions, and pension records can be found in various classes. Dockyard workers were often free of impressment, the records for this are in ADM 7 for 1794-1815. Many dockyard officers had seen prior service in the navy, and others such as shipwrights and sail makers were also likely to have served afloat, so they can be found in navy records as well.

Reserve Forces

In 1859 the Admiralty established a reserve of seafaring men who could be called upon in times of emergency to serve in the Royal Navy. Smith, Watts & Watts (1991) describe the records at the PRO, and there are leaflets on the main divisions, the *Royal Naval Reserve* (M37) and the *Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve* (M71). I have an example of an officer in the RNVR using an alias during WWI. On 31st Dec 1918 Clarence Henry Baker Tucker, aged 41 and bachelor son of Stephen Baker Tucker gentleman, married Grace Isabel Hawkins, spinster aged 31 in Burstow, Surrey. He describes himself by this name and adds in brackets (professionally known as & holding the King's Commission as Lieutenant R.N.V.R. in the name of Herbert Tracey) then he signs with both names.

Nautical Training Schools

In 1756 John Fielding established the charitable *Maritime Society* where destitute boys picked off city streets, especially those who had been in trouble with the law, could be given discipline and a trade in the Royal Navy.

This was the forerunner of nautical training schools such as the several ships called *Arethusa*, starting in 1874 and run by the Shaftesbury Homes. A similar venture was the *Marine Society* with ships called by this name and latterly *Warspite*. A more modern one is the *Chichester* off Greenhithe, Kent. There were also three reformatory ships, *Clarence* (1856), and *Akbar* (1864) in the River Mersey, and *Cornwall* (1859) at Purfleet on the Thames. Most of these boys would have gone on to serve in the navy or merchant fleets.

Women in the Royal Navy

Until 1917 no women served in the Royal Navy except as nurses at the *Royal Greenwich Hospital*, (see above), and later elsewhere. Navy nursing was properly organized in 1883 with the establishment of the professional *Naval Nursing Sisters*, in 1902 changed to the *Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service*. The *Navy List* from 1884 includes the highest ranking nurses, and PRO class ADM 104 has service records for nurses 1884-918 and succession books 1921-1939. The *Women's Royal Naval* Service was established in 1917 and now women had other roles in the navy; their records in ADM 318 and ADM 321, including appointments, promotions and resignations, are available after the usual 75 years. Information on women sailors can be found in PRO leaflet M56, and in Wood (2001-2) who also reviews a book about them by Stark.

Bringing Your Navy Ancestors to Life

Many sources are available in print and electronic form, with illustrations of uniforms, ships, and the way of life on land and sea. Examples include:

- *Shire books* entitled *Historic Ships* and Ships' Figureheads by Stammers, *Old Docks* by Ritchie-Noakes, *Royal Dockyards* by MacDougall, and *The Victorian Sailor* by Marcombe.
- Thousands of books on maritime topics are available, and secondhand bookshops are replete with them. Descriptions and dates for ships can be found in such books as *Ships of the Royal Navy* by Colledge. The Navy *Official List* books starting in 1673 give ports of call for each ship each year. Hocking lists disasters at sea 1824-1862, and Hurst (1997) reviews some of the more useful ones for the family historian.
- There are some very good children's books with excellent, authentic illustrations, one I have is *Sailors of the Great Sailing* Ships by Abranson.
- Photographs of work being carried out in dockyards can be found in class ADM 195 at the PRO.
- There are huge numbers of locally written books for ports large and small giving valuable historical and maritime information, often collated by eminent 19th century men with maritime blood and time on their hands. They are worth digging out of local public and historical libraries.
- There are plenty of officers' memoirs but not too many of ratings, for few were literate enough. Rodger (1998-2) has edited that written by a navy rating who served during the mid-1700s, The *Narrative of William Spavens* which is an excellent period piece.

- Popular naval topics have plenty of source material, for example Swinnerton (2001-3) reviews those available for the *Battle of Trafalgar*.
- The *Naval Chronicle* was a monthly publication from 1799-1818, and an index to its birth, marriage and death announcements as well as long-lived pensioners has been published by Hurst (1989).
- Newspapers of the day give detailed accounts of seafaring activities, wrecks and trade. In the *General Advertiser* dated Wednesday May 29, 1745 after the news of shipping arrivals and departures from Deal and London and progress of the army in Genoa, the bankrupts and marriages, and amongst the usual adverts for quack medicines and an announcement for the first performance of a *New Musick* by Mr. Handel entitled *Belshazzar*, are found three items of naval interest (Chart 71):

Chart 71: Naval Newspaper Advertisements

Admiralty Office, May 27, 1745

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty do hereby strictly direct such of the Petty Officers, and Foremast Men, late belonging to his Majesty's Ship *Hastings*, who have not already entered on board his Majesty's Ship the *Scarborough*, to repair immediately on board his Majesty's Ship, *Prince George* at Blackstakes; on Pain not only of loosing the Remainder of their Wages for the *Hastings*, but of being apprehended by the Marshal of the Admiralty, and tried at a Court-Martial as Deserters.

THO. CORBETT

Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich
27 May 1745

THE Directors of his Majesty's Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, hereby give Notice, that such Persons as are willing to Contract for supplying the said Hospital with BUTTER and CHEESE, may deliver in their Proposals seal'd up, to the Directors at Salters Hall, on Wednesday the 12th of June next, at Eleven in the Forenoon; and in the mean Time by applying to the Steward of the said Hospital at Greenwich, they may be informed of the Nature of the Service, and of all other Particulars relating thereto.

To be SOLD by AUCTION in LOTS,
At LLOYD's Coffee-House in Lombard Street,
Tomorrow, at Twelve o'Clock

SUNDRY Stores, viz. Anchors, Cables, Sails, Guns etc saved out of the *Chatham*, Capt. George Long, Burthen 500 Tons upwards, lately lost on the Coast of Sussex.

Catalogues to be had at the Place of Sale, and of
SAMUEL BROOKS, Broker.

Naval Museums & Libraries

All kinds of displays, records, artefacts, photographs and diaries are held by specialist naval museums and libraries such as:

- *Britannia Royal Naval College Library* at Dartmouth.
- *Naval History Library* at Plymouth.
- *Royal Naval Museum* at Portsmouth.
- *Royal Navy Submarine Museum* at Gosport.
- *National Maritime Museum* at Greenwich with its *Caird Library*, whose contents include manuscripts, charts, prints, drawings, oil paintings, historic photographs, ship plans, and over 2 million artefacts and is described by Pethers, and with its catalogue on their web site.

Societies

Several societies exist which are able to provide information or background material, examples are:

- The *Navy Records Society.*
- *Naval Historical Collectors and Research Association.*
- *Society for Nautical Research.*
- *Liverpool Nautical Research Society.*
- *World Ship Society* holds photos of 53,000 ships and is a less expensive alternative for ship photographs than some of the Museums; please note that an SAE is definitely required as this is a voluntary organization.

Tombstones may reveal clues, such as that in St. Giles, Copmanthorpe, Yorkshire which states (Wood 2001-3):

> Stephen Foster (formerly Gosport, Hants), Many years gunner of Somerset man-of-war & the oldest seaman in His Majesty's Service, died March 17th 1808 in the 94th year of his age.

Other Naval Records

The PRO has several leaflets on other types of records that they hold:

M32 Royal Navy: Log Books and Reports of Proceedings
M33 Royal Navy: Operational Records, First World War, 1914-1918
D34 Titanic
M35 Royal Navy: Operational Records 1660-1914
M36 Admiralty Charts (maps)
M38 Royal Naval Research and Development
M41 Royal Naval Dockyards
M43 Ships Wrecked or Sunk
M69 Royal Navy: Operational Records

The *Military & Mariner Miscellanea* by Ross & Ross 1991 on 129 fiches 6085342 contains a fascinating medley of information, well worth a lucky dip! Howard has some fascinating insights into the British Sailor (1840-1), the Midshipman (1840-3) and the Greenwich Pensioner (1840-2).

APPENDIX I
USEFUL ADDRESSES

The reader is also referred to the extensive list of addresses of libraries, museums and societies in the latest edition of Blatchford's Genealogical Services Directory.

Airmail magazine for ex-RAF servicemen	RAF Association, Central HQ 43 Grove Park Road London W4 3RU
Army Medal Office	Government Buildings Worcester Road, Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 8AU
Australian Imperial Force World War	AIF Project, Dept of History, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia
British Ancestors in India Society	Paul Rowland, 2 South Farm Avenue Harthill, Sheffield S26 7WY E-mail: editorial@indiaman.com Website: http://www.indiaman.com
British Association for Cemeteries in Asia (BACSA)	761/2 Chartfield Avenue London SW14 6HQ
Boxer Rebellion	http://www.smplanet.com/imperialism/fists
British Empire & Commonwealth Museum	Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads Bristol BS1 6QH E-mail: staff@empiremuseum.co.uk Website: http://www.empiremuseum.co.uk
British Legion	http://www.britishlegion.org.uk
British Library, Oriental & India Office Collections	Oriental & India Office Collections British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2D E-mail:oioc-enquiries@bl.uk Website: www.bl.uk/collections/oriental Index to catalogue: www.a2a.pro.gov.uk

Canadian National Archives	http://www.archives.ca
Canadian Veterans	http://infosource.gc.ca/Info_1/VAC-PR-e
Canadian War Children of WWII	http://www.project-roots.com
Coldstream Guards	Regimental Adjutant, Regimental Headquarters, Coldstream Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
Commonwealth War Graves Commission WWI & WWII	2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 7DX E-mail: casualty.enq@cwgc.org Website: http://www.cwgc.org
Corps of Commissionaires	3 Crane Court, Fleet Street London EC3A 2EJ
Crimean War research Society	Hon Sec David Cliff, 4 Castle Estate Castle Lane, Ripponden, West Yorks
Cross & Cockade International (WWI Aviation Historical Society)	Roger Tisdale, 5 Cave Drive Downend, Bristol BS16 2TL Website: http://www.crossandcockade.com
East India Company	Oriental & India Office Collections British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2D E-mail:oioc-enquiries@bl.uk Website: www.bl.uk/collections/oriental
Families in British India Society	Sentosa, Godolphin Road, Weybridge Surrey KT13 0PT E-mail: peter@sentosa.swinternet.co.uk
Fleet Air Arm Museum	RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester Somerset BA22 8HT
Fleet Air Arm records	Ministry of Defence, CS(R)2 Bourne Avenue, Hayes Middlesex UB3 1RF
GENFAIR (Online genealogy bookshop)	http://www.genfair.com
GWR (Great Western Railway) Museum	Faringdon Road, Swindon Wiltshire SN1 5BJ

Guards Combined Record Office	Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk London SW1E 6HQ
Guildhall Library	Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ Site: http://ihr.sas.as.uk/ihr/ghmnu.html
HEIC	Oriental & India Office Collections British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2D E-mail: oioc-enquiries@bl.uk Website: http://www.bl.uk
Heritage Productions online bookstore	http://www.genealogystore.com
HMS Centurion (RN records WWII onwards)	Ministry of Defence, PP1 A1, HMS Centurion, Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO13 9XA
Imperial War Museum	Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ E-mail: mail@iwm.org.uk Website: http://www.iwm.org.uk.
Imperial War Museum-North (opening 2002)	Trafford, Greater Manchester
Imperial War Museum Photographic Archive	All Saints Annexe, Austral Street London SE1 6HZ
India Office Collections	Oriental & India Office Collections British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2D E-mail: oioc-enquiries@bl.uk Website: http://www.bl.uk
Irish Guards 1914-1919	http://www.irishguards.net/
Land Forces of Britain, the Empire & Commonwealth	http://www.regiments.org/milhist/
London Metropolitan Archives	40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB Website: http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/
M.M. Publications	75 Thomas More House, The Barbican, London EC27 8BT

Ministry of Defence	Bourne Ave, Hayes, Middlesex England UB3 1RF
Ministry of Defence (RN Records 1923-1939)	CS(R)2e, Bourne Ave, Hayes, Middlesex England UB3 1RF
National Archives of Scotland	HM General Register House Edinburgh EH1 3YY Website: http://www.nas.gov.uk
National Army Museum	Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea London SW3 4HT E-mail:info@national-army-museum.ac.uk Site: www.national-army-museum.ac.uk
National Inventory of War Memorials	Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road London SE1 6HZ E-mail: memorials@iwm.org.uk
National Maritime Museum	Marine Information Centre, Greenwich London SE10 9NF E-mail: library@nmm.ac.uk Website: http://www.nmm.ac.uk
National Monument Record	55 Blandford Street, London W1U 7HN E-mail: nmrlondon@english-heritage.org.uk Website:www.english-heritage.org.uk/knowledge/nmr
Naval Historical Collectors & Research Association	J.T. Mock, 17 Woodhill Avenue Portishead, Bristol, Avon BS20 9EX
Naval Personnel Records	Room 2007 059(a), Ministry of Defense, Empress State Building, London SW6 1TR (modern Royal Navy records)
Navy Records Society	N.A.M. Rodger, Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU
Public Record Office (PRO) (This is the National Archives of Britain)	Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU Website: http://www.pro.gov.uk

RAF Personnel Management Agency	RAF Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1EZ
RAF records (those who served in WWI and after)	P MAN 2b(1), RAF Personnel Management Centre, HQ PTC, Innsworth, Gloucestershire GL3 1EZ
RAF records (WWII)	Ministry of Defence, Bourne Ave, Hayes Middlesex, England UB3 1RF Brief details from: RAF Personnel Management Centre, (CS) 2a(2), Innsworth, Gloucestershire GL3 1EZ
RAF Dept of Aviation Records (Archives and Museum),	Hendon Aerodrome, London NW9 5LL
Red Cross	- Within Britain Director, International Welfare Department, British Red Cross Society, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ E-mail: enquiry@redcross.org.uk - From outside Britain International Council of the Red Cross, Archives Division, 19 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1202, Geneva, Switzerland. E-mail: Archives.gva@icrc.org Website: http://www.icrc.org
Royal Armouries	Situated in London, Fort Nelson near Portsmouth, and Leeds in Yorkshire. Website: www.armouries.org.uk
Royal Arsenal Woolwich Historical Society	Room 132, Building 22, Royal Arsenal West Woolwich, London SE18 6ST Website:http://www.tripod.co.uk/RoyalArsenal
Royal Engineers Museum	Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent ME4 4UG
Royal Marines Drafting & Record Office	HMS Centurion, Grange Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO13 9XA
Royal Marines Museum	Eastney, Southsea, Hampshire PO4 9PX

Royal Military Police	Archivist, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex PO19 4BL
Royal Naval Museum	HM Naval Base (PP66), Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3NH Website: http://www.royalnavalmuseum.org
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	Haslar Jetty Road, Gosport Hampshire PO12 2AS Website: http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk
Scots Guards	Regimental Adjutant, Regimental Headquarters, Scots Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
Shire Publications	Cromwell House, Church St., Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 9AJ
Society for Nautical Research	National Maritime Museum, Romney Road, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
Society of Genealogists	14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road London EC1M 7BA Website: www.sog.org.uk Bookshop: www.sog.org.uk/acatalog /SoG_Bookshop_Online
South African War Database	Www.nzhistory.net.nz/Gallery/ SAW/Database
Southampton City Record Office	Civic Centre, Southampton Hampshire SO14 7LY E-mail:city.archives@southampton.gov.uk
Telephone books	http://www.teldir.com
Thomas Cook Company Archives	Thomas Cook, 45 Berkley Street London W1A 1EB
Victorian Military Society	PO Box 5837, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7JF E-mail: beverley20@tesco.net Website: http://www.vms.org.uk
War of 1812-1814: The British Soldier	members.tripod.com/~war1812/redcoat
War Pensions Agency	Archives Registry, Scholefield Mill Brunswick Street, Nelson Lancashire BB9 0HU

Western Front Association	http://www.westernfront.co.uk
World Ship Society Membership	WSS, 106 Penwill Way, Paignton Devon TI4 5JW
Ship photographs	Cliff Parsons, 6 Kathkin Avenue Manchester M8 4QL
Warship photographs	Brian Hargreaves,7 Millview Drive, Tynmouth, Tyne & Wear NE30 6HZ
WWI soldiers shot by firing squad	http://www.clarkehome58.freeserve.co.uk

APPENDIX II - INDEXES

Always check the net for new indexes. A good place to start is http://www.rootsweb.com/jfuller/gen_mail_occ. Army Indexes are numerous, see Bevan, Fowler & Spencer, Gibson & Hampshire, Kitzmiller. One of many neat ancillary sites on military that has lots of photos, indexes and offers of help is www.capefam.freeserve.co.uk/militaryimages. Gibson and Hampson's Specialist Indexes lists a large number of materials useful for services research.

Barnes, David J. RFC, RNAS & RAF Register	148 Parkinson Street, Burnley Lancashire BB11 3LL Site: www.rfc-rnas-raf-register.org.uk
British Library, Oriental & India Office Collection	Catalogue and searchable indexes at: http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk
Certificates & Declarations for officers' widows' pensions 1846-65	Meryl Catty, 4 Alexandra Close Chadwell St. Mary, Grays, Essex RM16 4TT 1 fiche for £2.50 incl. postage
Deserters from army	Deserter Index, Manchester & Lancashire FHS, Clayton House, 59 Piccadilly Manchester M1 2AQ
Family Tree Magazine vol 1-15	http://www.family-tree.co.uk/MENU
Gallipoli Campaign 1915-1916 Biographical Index	Patrick Gariépy, 3966 Robin Avenue Eugene, Oregon, USA 97402 E-mail: patrick@efn.org
Hodgson's Index (India officers pre-1861)	National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT E-Mail & Website info@national-army-museum.ac.uk www.national-army-museum.ac.uk
Illustrations	www.capefam.freeserve.co.uk/militaryimages

India Office Records	Catalogue and searchable indexes at: http://www.a2a.pro.gov.uk.
India web sites	www.ozemail.com.au/~clday/ www.anglo-indians.com
Inland Waterways	John Roberts, 52 St. Andrews Road Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B75 6UH
Jervis World War I Photographic Index	Send £3 + SAE for search to I.S. Swinnerton, Imperial Soldier Searches, Cobwebs, Long Burton, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 5PD
Land Tax E 182 Exchequer: King's Remembrance: Particulars of Account or Land & Assessed Taxes	Barbara Chambers www.members.aol.co/BJCham2809/homepage See Further Reading - Chambers 2002.
Military Courts 1879-1993	CD from Family History Indexes, 14 Copper Leaf Close, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7HS E-mail: info@fhindexes.co.uk Website: http://www.fhindexes.co.uk
Militia Musters 1781-2 (WO 13)	Family History Indexes, 14 Copper Leaf Close, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7HS E-mail: fhindexes@genfair.com Website: www.genfair.com/fhindexes/
National Inventory of War Memorials	Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road London SE1 6HZ www.iwm.org.uk/collections/niwm
Naval Chronicle Index	Norman Hurst, 25 Byron Avenue Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 2JS
Police Gazette	See Deserters from Army
RFC, RNAS & RAF Register	David J. Barnes, 148 Parkinson Street Burnley, Lancashire BB11 3LL www.rfc-rnas-raf-register.org.uk

Sandhurst Military Academy [for student records]	Librarian, Central Library, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Surrey, England GV15 47Q
Sea Fencibles 1805	Defence of the Realm Indexes, Jennifer Killick, 41 Reachfields, Hythe, Kent CT21 6LS
Soldiers Died in the Great War	CD-ROM by Naval & Military Press, Heathfield, East Sussex
Soldiers Documents Index 1760-1854	http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk
Soldiers Documents Index 1855-1872	Miss S.L. Davis, 18 Manor Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9JX
Soldiers Index 1792-1838	J.D. Beckett, 34 Eastwood Avenue, Droylsden, Manchester M35 6BJ. Send SAE for details. Compiled from non-PRO material. Also on film, see 1596009
Trafalgar Index	Index of Seamen & Marines at the Battle of Trafalgar, c/o Mr. & Mrs. D. Ayshford, 52 Perry Street, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6DH E-mail: dayshford@aol.com Trafalgar Roll Website: www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/Trafalgar
Victorian military photos, medals, & badges	Dan Allen, Victorian Military Society 20 Priory Road Newbury Berks RG14 7QN
Volunteers of Napoleonic Wars	Defence of the Realm Indexes, Jennifer Killick, 41 Reachfields, Hythe, Kent CT21 6LS
War Graves for WWI onwards	2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 7DX E-mail: casualty.enq@cwgc.org Website: www.cwgc.org
War Memorials in UK	Imperial War Museum www.iwm.org.uk/collections/niwm

WWI personnel photographs (See Swinnerton 1998-2)	Jervis WWI Photographic Index, Imperial Soldier Searches, Yew Tree Cottage, Blackford, Stoke-St.-Milborough, Shropshire SY8 2ET
WWI Soldiers Index	Mrs. Grace Bevan, 114 Inchbonnie Road South Woodham Ferrers, Essex CM3 5ZW

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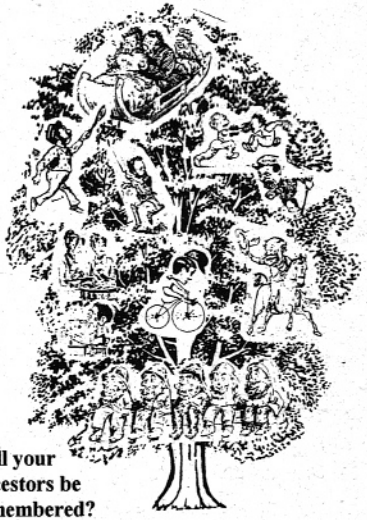

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